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Commission on the Status of Women

Report on the forty-ninth session (28 February-11 and 22 March 2005)

Economic and Social Council

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Note

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Declaration adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forth-ninth session*

1. The following declaration adopted by the Commission is brought to the attention of the Council for adoption by the General Assembly.

Declaration of the Commission on the Status of Women on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women

We, the representatives of Governments gathering at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, in the context of the review of the outcomes of the Conference and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", and its contribution to the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the review of the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] to be held from 14 to 16 September 2005,

1. *Reaffirm* the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[2] adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;[3]

2. *Welcome* the progress made thus far towards achieving gender equality, stress that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and, in this regard, pledge to undertake further action to ensure their full and accelerated implementation;

3. *Emphasize* that the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is essential to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration,[1] and stress the need to ensure the integration of a gender perspective in the high-level plenary meeting on the review of the Millennium Declaration;

4. *Recognize* that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the fulfilment of the obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women are mutually reinforcing in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women;

5. *Call upon* the United Nations system, international and regional organizations, all sectors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, as well as all women and men, to fully commit themselves and to intensify their

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* For the discussion, see chap. II.

[1] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[2] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[3] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

contributions to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.

B. Draft resolutions for adoption by the Council

2. The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women*

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women,[4]

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[5] in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action[6] adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[7]

Recalling also its resolution 2004/56 of 23 July 2004 and other relevant United Nations resolutions,

Recalling further the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women[8] as it concerns the protection of civilian populations,

Expressing the urgent need for the full resumption of negotiations within the Middle East peace process on its agreed basis and towards the speedy achievement of a final settlement between the Palestinian and Israeli sides,

Concerned about the grave situation of Palestinian women in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, resulting from severe impact of ongoing illegal Israeli settlement activities and the unlawful construction of the wall, as well as the severe consequences arising from Israeli military operations on and sieges of civilian areas, which have detrimentally impacted their social and economic conditions and deepened the humanitarian crisis faced by them and their families,

Recalling the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the "Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the

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* For the discussion, see chap. II.

[4] E/CN.6/2005/4.

[5] *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

[6] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[7] See General Assembly resolution S-23/2 and S-23/3.

[8] See General Assembly resolution 48/104.

Occupied Palestinian Territory",[9] and recalling also General Assembly resolution ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004,

Recalling also the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[10] the International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[10] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[11] and affirming that these human rights instruments must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Expressing its condemnation of all acts of violence, including all acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction, especially the excessive use of force against Palestinian civilians, many of them women and children, resulting in injury and loss of human life,

1. *Calls upon* the concerned parties, as well as the international community, to exert all the necessary efforts to ensure the full resumption of the peace process on its agreed basis, taking into account the common ground already gained, and calls for measures for tangible improvement of the difficult situation on the ground and the living conditions faced by Palestinian women and their families;

2. *Reaffirms* that the Israeli occupation remains a major obstacle for Palestinian women with regard to their advancement, self-reliance and integration in the development planning of their society;

3. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying power, comply fully with the provisions and principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[12] the Regulations annexed to the Hague Convention IV of 18 October 1907[13] and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949,[14] in order to protect the rights of Palestinian women and their families;

4. *Calls upon* Israel to facilitate the return of all refugees and displaced Palestinian women and children to their homes and properties, in compliance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

5. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to provide urgently needed assistance and services in an effort to alleviate the dire humanitarian crisis being faced by Palestinian women and their families and to help in the reconstruction of relevant Palestinian institutions;

6. *Requests* the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[5] in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action[6] and the outcome documents of the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century";[7]

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[9] See A/ES-10/273 and Corr.1.

[10] General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[11] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[12] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

[13] See Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, *The Hague Conventions and Declarations of 1899 and 1907* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1915).

[14] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation, to assist Palestinian women by all available means, including those laid out in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women" and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fiftieth session a report, including information provided by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution II
Situation of women and girls in Afghanistan*

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming that all States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and the duty to fulfil the obligations they have undertaken under the various instruments in this field,

Recalling that Afghanistan is a party to several international human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[15]

Recalling also the importance of the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, on women and peace and security, 1265 (1999) of 17 September 1999 and 1296 (2000) of 19 April 2000, on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, and 1539 (2004) of 22 April 2004, on children and armed conflict,

Recalling further that the new Constitution states that the citizens of Afghanistan, whether men or women, are equal before the law and that it guarantees the rights of women to serve in the National Assembly,

Recognizing that, in spite of recent improvements, women in Afghanistan continue to face serious violations of their human rights in many parts of the country, in particular in rural areas,

Strongly emphasizing that a safe environment, free from violence, discrimination and abuse, for all Afghans, is essential for a viable and sustainable recovery and reconstruction process,

Stressing the need to integrate a gender perspective when formulating and implementing programmes and policies,

1. *Welcomes*:

(a) The continuing commitment of the Government of Afghanistan to the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls, the restoration of the active participation of Afghan women in political, economic and social life, the education of girls as well as boys and the opportunity for women to work outside the home;

(b) The provisions of the new Constitution, which state that the citizens of Afghanistan, whether men or women, are equal before the law and that at least two women are to be elected to the Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament) from each province, as a national average, and which provide that half of the President's nominees to the Meshrano Jirga (Upper House of Parliament) be women;

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* For the discussion, see chap. II.

[15] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

(c) The ongoing security sector reform processes being undertaken by the Government of Afghanistan with the support of the international community, including the demobilization, disarmament and reintegration of former combatants and the recruitment of a new cadre of women police;

(d) The peaceful and successful presidential election that took place on 9 October 2004 and the level of participation by women voters, who cast 40 per cent of the total number of votes;

(e) The candidacy of Afghan women in both the Presidential and Vice-presidential ballots, the appointment of three women to cabinet positions and the appointment of the first woman provincial governor on 2 March 2005;

(f) The recent publication of a report on transitional justice, entitled "A Call for Justice", by the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission;

(g) The efforts by the Afghan Government to develop a national action plan on gender equality;

2. *Also welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on the Status of Women on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan;[16]

3. *Urges* the Government of Afghanistan:

(a) To fully implement the Constitution and all international treaties to which Afghanistan is a State party, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;[15]

(b) To ensure that legislative, administrative and other measures support the full enjoyment by women and girls of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including by mainstreaming gender issues into policies and programmes at all levels, and to organize sustained awareness-raising campaigns on the equality of women and men;

(c) To enable the full, equal and effective participation of women and girls in civil, cultural, economic, political and social life throughout the country at all levels;

(d) To ensure that women, including through ensuring women's security, are able to register, run for office, campaign and vote in the upcoming National Assembly elections scheduled for 2005;

(e) To strengthen women's economic empowerment and their access to income-generating activities, credit, means of production, technology and resources, inter alia, by guaranteeing the property and inheritance rights of women and girls;

(f) To continue to strengthen the effective, full and equal access of women and girls to health care and education;

(g) To ensure that the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission and the permanent Afghan judicial institutions have adequate human and financial resources to fulfil their mandates and address gender perspectives, in line with international standards;

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[16] E/CN.6/2005/5.

(h) To continue its efforts to re-establish the rule of law, in accordance with international standards, inter alia, by ensuring the impartiality of the justice system and that law enforcement agencies respect and uphold human rights and fundamental freedoms, with particular emphasis on access to justice and redress mechanisms for women;

(i) To continue its efforts to reflect a gender perspective in the training and activities of the police, army, prosecutors and the judiciary and to promote the recruitment of Afghan women in all ranks;

(j) To raise awareness of and strengthen measures to prevent and eliminate violence, including domestic and sexual violence, against women and girls, with the aim of changing the attitudes that allow such crimes to take place and to develop support services for victims of such violence;

(k) To release women prisoners held in the State detention centres for actions that do not constitute crimes under Afghan law and to provide them with adequate support for reintegration into their communities;

(l) To raise awareness of the need to prevent and eliminate enforced marriages, in accordance with article 16 (b) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

(m) To support measures to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls, to hold accountable those who were responsible for gross violations of human rights in the past and to ensure that full investigations are conducted and perpetrators brought to justice, in accordance with international standards, in order to combat impunity;

4. *Invites* the United Nations system, international and non-governmental organizations and donors:

(a) To ensure a human rights-based approach and coherent policy and resources for gender mainstreaming in all programmes and operations, based on the principles of non-discrimination and equality between women and men, and to ensure that women benefit equally with men from such programmes in all sectors;

(b) To reflect the needs of women and girls and the importance of their role in the process of peacebuilding, reconstruction and development;

(c) To support the elements of civil society active in the field of human rights and encourage the involvement of women therein;

(d) To ensure that all their international and national personnel, prior to beginning their service, receive training in gender equality, as well as appropriate training in the history, culture and traditions of Afghanistan, and are fully familiar with and guided by international standards of human rights;

(e) To integrate efforts to improve the health status of women within all reconstruction efforts, especially through access to skilled prenatal care, increasing access to skilled birth attendance, education programmes on basic health issues, community information activities and emergency obstetric care;

(f) To continue to support measures for the employment of women and the integration of a gender perspective into all social, development and reconstruction programmes, taking into account the special needs of widows and orphans and returning refugee and displaced women and girls, as well as those living in rural areas;

(g) To continue to provide financial and technical support to the Ministry of Women's Affairs and all line ministries in order to integrate gender perspectives into their programmes and budgets;

(h) To provide sufficient financial and technical support to the 2005 National Assembly elections process in order to facilitate the full participation of women as voters and candidates;

(i) To support the development of a long-term strategy to strengthen the judicial system, in line with international standards;

(j) To support measures to hold accountable those responsible for gross violations of women's human rights in the past and to ensure that full investigations are conducted and perpetrators brought to justice;

5. *Invites* the Commission on Human Rights to consider the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session and to fully include the situation of women and girls in any consideration of the human rights situation in Afghanistan;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fiftieth session a report on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

C. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

3. The Commission on the Status of Women also recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Draft decision

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its forty-ninth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the fiftieth session of the Commission*

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its forty-ninth session and approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the fiftieth session of the Commission set out below:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":

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* For the discussion, see chap. V.

Documentation

Proposals for a multi-year programme of work on the Commission on the Status of Women, 2007-2011

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan

Report on the joint work plan of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the activities of the Fund to eliminate violence against women

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the results of the thirty-fourth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

(a) Review of gender mainstreaming in entities of the United Nations system;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on measures taken and progress achieved in the follow-up to and implementation of the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, with an assessment of progress made in mainstreaming a gender perspective within the United Nations system

(b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;

(c) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:

  (i) Enhanced participation of women in development: an enabling environment for achieving gender equality and the advancement of women, taking into account, inter alia, the fields of education, health and work;

  (ii) Equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels.

Documentation

Enhanced participation of women in development: an enabling environment for achieving gender equality and the advancement of women, taking into account, inter alia, the fields of education, health and work (thematic issue before the Commission)

Equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels (thematic issue before the Commission)

Note by the Bureau of the Commission: discussion guide on the high-level round table of the Commission

4. Communications concerning the status of women.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the list of confidential communications concerning the status of women

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the list of non-confidential communications concerning the status of women

5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.

Documentation

Letter from the President of the Economic and Social Council addressed to the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women

Note by the Secretariat as an input to the high-level segment of the 2006 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council

6. Provisional agenda for the fifty-first session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fiftieth session.

D. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

4. The following resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Council:

Resolution 49/1
Women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS*

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming the relevant strategic objectives and actions set out in the Beijing Platform for Action[17] and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[18] and the goals and targets set forth in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS,[19] adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session in 2001, and the HIV/AIDS-related goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 2000,[20] in particular the aim of Member States to have halted, by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS,

Recalling its resolutions 46/2 of 15 March 2002, 47/1 of 10 March 2003 and 48/2 of 9 March 2004 on women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS,

Recalling also the Declaration and Plan of Action contained in the final document of the special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled "A world fit for children",[21] and recognizing that their implementation is a major contribution to protecting the rights and promoting the well-being of children,

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* For the discussion, see chap. II.

[17] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[18] Resolutions S-23/2, annex, and S-23/3, annex.

[19] General Assembly resolution S-26/2, annex.

[20] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 58/236 of 23 December 2003, entitled "Follow-up to the outcome of the twenty-sixth special session: implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS",

Recalling Commission on Human Rights resolution 2004/26 of 16 April 2004, entitled "Access to medication in the context of pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria",

Recalling also the holding of the fifteenth International AIDS Conference in Bangkok, from 11 to 16 July 2004, with the theme "Access for All" in respect of people living with HIV/AIDS,

Welcoming the launch in February 2004, by the Joint United Nations Programme on AIDS and its partners, of the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS, which seeks to raise awareness of the effects of HIV/AIDS on women and girls and to stimulate and increase action in the fight against HIV/AIDS,

Welcoming also the high-level meeting on HIV/AIDS, scheduled to take place in June 2005, to review the progress achieved in realizing the commitments set out in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS,

Acknowledging that prevention, care, support and treatment for those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS are mutually reinforcing elements of an effective response that must be integrated into a comprehensive approach to combat the epidemic,

Recognizing that populations destabilized by armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, including refugees, internally displaced persons and, in particular, women and children, are at an increased risk of exposure to HIV infection,

Deeply concerned that the global HIV/AIDS pandemic disproportionately affects women and girls and that the majority of new HIV infections occurs among young people,

Concerned that women's unequal legal, economic and social status, as well as violence against women and girls and other cultural and physiological factors, increase their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS,

Also concerned that women and girls have different and unequal access to and use of health resources for the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS,

1. *Stresses with deep concern* that the HIV/AIDS emergency, with its devastating scale and impact, requires urgent actions in all fields and at all levels;

2. *Also stresses* that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are fundamental elements in the reduction of their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, and emphasizes that the advancement of women and girls is key to reversing the pandemic;

3. *Reaffirms* the need for Governments, supported by relevant actors, including civil society, to intensify national efforts and international cooperation in the implementation of the commitments contained in the Declaration of

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[21] General Assembly resolution S-27/2, annex.

Commitment on HIV/AIDS[19] and to work towards effectively reflecting in their national policies and strategies the gender dimension of the pandemic, in line with the time-bound goals of the Declaration;

4. *Urges* Governments to take all necessary measures to empower women and to strengthen their economic independence and protect and promote their full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to enable them to protect themselves from HIV infection;

5. *Also urges* Governments to strengthen initiatives that would increase the capacities of women and adolescent girls to protect themselves from the risk of HIV infection, principally through the provision of health care and health services, including for sexual and reproductive health and through prevention education that promotes gender equality within a culturally and gender-sensitive framework;

6. *Further urges* Governments to expand access to treatment, in a progressive and sustainable manner, including the prevention and treatment of opportunistic diseases and effective use of antiretroviral medication and to promote access to low-cost effective drugs and related pharmaceutical products;

7. *Calls upon* Governments to intensify efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls in relation to HIV/AIDS, including through challenging stereotypes, stigmatization, discriminatory attitudes and gender inequalities and to encourage the active involvement of men and boys in this regard;

8. *Encourages* the continued collaboration among the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the World Health Organization and other United Nations agencies, as well as the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and other international organizations to address and reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS, in particular in the context of emergency situations and as part of humanitarian efforts, and also encourages the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in their work;

9. *Welcomes* the commitment by the World Health Organization and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS to work with the international community to support developing countries in achieving the "3 by 5 target" of providing antiretroviral medicines to three million people infected with HIV/AIDS by the end of 2005;

10. *Encourages* the ongoing work by the United Nations system in providing widespread information on the gender dimension of the pandemic and in raising awareness about the critical intersection between gender inequality and HIV/AIDS;

11. *Emphasizes* the need for the rapid scaling up of treatment programmes to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV and to encourage men to participate with women in programmes designed to prevent mother-to-child transmission;

12. *Encourages* the design and implementation of programmes to enable men, including young men, to adopt safe and responsible sexual and reproductive behaviour and to use effective methods to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS;

13. *Recognizes* the importance of young men and women having access to the information, education, including peer education and youth-specific HIV education, and services necessary to develop the life skills required to reduce their vulnerability to HIV infection, with the full participation of young persons, parents, families, educators and health-care providers;

14. *Calls* for enhanced efforts by all relevant actors to include a gender perspective in the development of HIV/AIDS programmes and policies and in the training of personnel involved in implementing such programmes, including through focusing on the role of men and boys in addressing HIV/AIDS;

15. *Urges* Governments to continue to promote the participation and the significant contribution of people living with HIV/AIDS, young people and civil society actors in addressing the problem of HIV/AIDS in all its aspects, including promoting a gender perspective, and also to promote their full involvement and participation in the design, planning, implementation and evaluation of HIV/AIDS programmes;

16. *Welcomes* the financial contributions made to date towards the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, urges further contributions to sustain the Fund, and calls upon all countries to encourage the private sector to contribute to the Fund;

17. *Calls upon* all Governments to take measures to ensure that the necessary resources are made available, in particular from donor countries and also from national budgets, in line with the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS;

18. *Invites* the Secretary-General to take a gender perspective into account when preparing the report requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 58/236;

19. *Decides* to consider this question further at its fiftieth session.

Resolution 49/2
Eliminating demand for trafficked women and girls for all forms of exploitation*

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming the provisions pertaining to all forms of trafficking of women and girls contained in the outcome documents of relevant international conferences and summits, in particular the strategic objective on the issue of trafficking contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women,[22]

Recalling the full range of previous resolutions on the problem of trafficking in women and girls adopted by the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights, in particular their reaffirmation of the principles set forth in the relevant human rights instruments and declarations and the resolve expressed by heads of Government in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[23] to intensify efforts to fight transnational organized crime in all its dimensions, including trafficking in human beings,

Also recalling the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children,[24] supplementing the United

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[*] For the discussion, see chap. II.

[22] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[23] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[24] General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex II.

Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[25] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[26] and its Optional Protocol,[27] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[28] and its Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,[29] and Convention No. 29 and No. 182 of the International Labour Organization,

Emphasizing that the fight against trafficking in women and girls for all forms of exploitation requires a comprehensive approach that addresses all factors and root causes that foster demand and make women and girls vulnerable to trafficking, as well as the protection and rehabilitation of victims,

Acknowledging the fact that the majority of trafficked persons are women and girls, in particular from developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

Concerned about the increasing occurrence of trafficking for all forms of exploitation, especially for commercial sexual exploitation, which overwhelmingly affects women and girls,

Also concerned that multiple forms of discrimination and conditions of disadvantage contribute to the vulnerability of women and girls to trafficking, and that indigenous, refugee, internally displaced and migrant women and girls may be particularly at risk,

Bearing in mind that all States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish perpetrators of trafficking in persons and to provide protection to the victims, and that not doing so violates, impairs or nullifies their enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Concerned that the exploitation of women in international prostitution and trafficking networks has become one of the major focuses of transnational organized crime,

Convinced that eliminating the demand for trafficked women and girls for all forms of exploitation, including for sexual exploitation, is a key element to combating trafficking,

Welcoming the appointment of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and her intention to devote special attention in her annual report to thematic issues, including the root causes of trafficking and discouragement of the demand that fosters trafficking for the purposes of all forms of exploitation,

1. *Calls upon* Governments to:

(a) Take all appropriate measures to eliminate the demand for trafficked women and girls for all forms of exploitation;

(b) Take appropriate measures to address the root factors, including poverty and gender inequality, as well as external factors that encourage trafficking in women and girls for prostitution and other forms of commercialized sex, forced marriage and forced labour, including by strengthening existing legislation with a view to providing better protection of the rights of women and girls and to punishing perpetrators, through both criminal and civil measures;

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[25] See General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex I.

[26] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[27] General Assembly resolution 54/4, annex.

[28] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[29] General Assembly resolution 54/263, annex II.

(c) Criminalize trafficking in persons, especially women and girls, in all its forms and condemn and penalize traffickers and intermediaries, while ensuring protection and assistance to the victims of trafficking, with full respect for their human rights;

(d) Adopt or strengthen and enforce legislative or other measures, such as educational, social and cultural measures, including through bilateral and multilateral cooperation, to deter exploiters and eliminate the demand that fosters trafficking of women and girls for all forms of exploitation;

(e) Conclude bilateral, subregional, regional and international agreements to address the problem of trafficking in persons, especially women and girls, including mutual assistance treaties, agreements and memorandums of understanding to enhance law enforcement and judicial cooperation, and specific measures aimed at reducing demand, as appropriate, to complement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[25] and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;[24]

2. *Also calls upon* Governments, and encourages civil society to:

(a) Take appropriate measures to raise public awareness of the issue of trafficking in persons, particularly in women and girls, including addressing the demand side of the problem, publicizing laws, regulations and penalties relating to this issue and emphasizing that trafficking is a crime, in order to eliminate the demand for trafficked women and girls, including by sex tourists;

(b) Implement educational programmes, including at the local level, in order to raise awareness of the negative consequences of trafficking in women and girls, including its links to commercial sexual exploitation, organized crime and harmful public health effects, such as the spread of HIV/AIDS, and of the rights and needs of trafficked women and girls;

(c) Undertake research on best practices, methods and strategies, information and mass media campaigns and social and economic initiatives to prevent and combat trafficking in women and girls, in particular to eliminate the demand;

3. *Encourages* Governments to intensify collaboration with non-governmental organizations in order to develop and implement comprehensive programmes, including programmes to provide shelter and helplines to victims or potential victims of trafficking and effective counselling and training for the social and economic reintegration of the victims into society;

4. *Encourages* the business sector, in particular the tourism industry and Internet providers, to develop or adhere to codes of conduct, with a view to preventing trafficking in persons and protecting the victims of such traffic, especially with regard to commercial sexual exploitation, and promoting their rights, dignity and security, including through collaboration with governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Resolution 49/3
Advisability of the appointment of a special rapporteur on laws that discriminate against women*

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling the commitment made in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995,[30] to ensure equality and non-discrimination under the law and in practice[31] and the specific commitment made in paragraph 232 (d) to revoke any remaining laws that discriminate on the basis of sex and remove gender bias in the administration of justice,

Noting the concern expressed in the further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted at the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[32] that legislative and regulatory gaps, as well as lack of implementation and enforcement of legislation and regulations, perpetuate de jure as well as de facto inequality and discrimination, and in a few cases, new laws discriminating against women have been introduced[33] and the commitment made therein to review domestic legislation with a view to striving to remove discriminatory provisions as soon as possible, preferably by 2005,[34]

Decides to consider at its fiftieth session the advisability of the appointment of a special rapporteur on laws that discriminate against women, bearing in mind the existing mechanisms with a view to avoid duplication, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fiftieth session on the implications of the creation of a position of special rapporteur on laws that discriminate against women and to include in his report the views of the Member States and relevant United Nations bodies, including the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Resolution 49/4
Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all national policies and programmes*

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Deeply convinced that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[35] and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[36] are important contributions to the advancement of women worldwide in the achievement of gender equality and must be translated into effective action by all States, the United Nations system and other organizations concerned,

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* For the discussion, see chap. II.

[30] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[31] Ibid., chap. IV.I, strategic objective I.2.

[32] General Assembly resolution S-23/3, annex.

[33] Ibid., para. 27.

[34] Ibid., para. 68 (b).

[35] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[36] General Assembly resolutions S-23/2, annex, and S-23/3, annex.

Acknowledging that enhancing women's opportunities, potential and activities requires a dual focus, namely, programmes aimed at meeting the basic needs and the specific needs of women for capacity-building, organizational development and empowerment, together with gender mainstreaming in all programme formulation and implementation activities,

Reaffirming that gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for promoting women's empowerment and achieving gender equality by transforming structures of inequality, making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is eliminated,

Reaffirming also that gender mainstreaming constitutes a critical strategy in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,

Reaffirming further the United Nations Millennium Declaration[37] and its call for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women,

Recognizing that further efforts are necessary for gender mainstreaming to be fully implemented,

Recognizing also that the full and effective implementation of gender mainstreaming requires adequate human and financial resources,

Recognizing further that when implementing gender mainstreaming, the diversity of women's efforts, needs and circumstances must be taken into account,

Recognizing that strong and effective national machineries for the advancement of women and institutional mechanisms play a central role in coordinating and promoting a gender mainstreaming strategy and that gender-based statistics, indicators, research, gender analysis and other tools, training and methodologies are critical to effective gender mainstreaming,

Recalling its agreed conclusions 1999/2 on institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women,[38]

1. *Reiterates* that gender mainstreaming is a tool for effective policymaking at all levels and not a substitute for targeted, women-specific policies and programmes, equality legislation, national machineries for the advancement of women and the establishment of gender focal points;

2. *Stresses* that, in order to ensure the effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action[39] and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly[36] and enhance the work for the advancement of women at the national, subregional, regional and international levels, Governments, the United Nations system and all other relevant organizations should strengthen their efforts to promote an active and visible policy of

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[37] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[38] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 1* (E/1999/99), resolution 1999/17.

[39] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

mainstreaming a gender perspective, inter alia, in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all policies and programmes;

3. *Also stresses* that political will and commitment at all levels are crucial to ensure the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the adoption and implementation of comprehensive and action-oriented policies in all areas;

4. *Welcomes*:

(a) The wide acknowledgement of gender mainstreaming, the goal of which is to incorporate a gender perspective in all legislation, policies, programmes and projects, as a strategy to enhance the impact of policies to promote gender equality;

(b) The establishment or strengthening of national machineries for the advancement of women, the recognition of those machineries as the institutional base, acting as catalysts for the promotion of gender equality, gender mainstreaming and monitoring of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and progress achieved in terms of the visibility, status, outreach and coordination of the activities of these machineries;

(c) The important catalytic role that these national machineries have played in assisting different ministries and agencies to address gender concerns in their policies and programmes;

(d) The contribution of these machineries to the development of human resources in the field of gender studies and to the growing efforts for the generation and dissemination of data disaggregated by sex and age and gender-sensitive research and documentation;

5. *Recognizes* that in a number of countries inadequate financial and human resources and a lack of political will and commitment hinder the activities of national machineries for the advancement of women and that this is further exacerbated by an insufficient understanding of gender equality and gender mainstreaming among government structures, a lack of gender statistics and data disaggregated by sex and age and in many areas insufficiently applied methods for assessing progress, in addition to a paucity of authority and insufficient links to civil society;

6. *Calls upon* Member States to:

(a) Involve women in decision-making at all levels in order to ensure that women's concerns and experiences are fully reflected in policy and programme design and implementation;

(b) Ensure that gender mainstreaming is fully understood, institutionalized and implemented and that these efforts should include promoting awareness and understanding of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

(c) Increase understanding of gender mainstreaming as a strategy in support of gender equality by systematically analysing and responding to the major reasons why men and women may be affected differently by the processes of economic and social transition and structural transformation of the economy, including globalization;

(d) Mainstream a gender perspective into key macroeconomic and social development policies and national development programmes;

(e) Develop and use frameworks, guidelines and other practical tools and indicators to accelerate gender mainstreaming, including gender-based research, analytical tools and methodologies, training, case studies, statistics and information, in planning and evaluating all policies and programmes;

(f) Develop effective and coherent accountability mechanisms, in particular through the introduction of gender perspectives and gender equality indicators, in planning, evaluation and budgetary processes at all levels of government and, if necessary, provide adequate guidelines and expertise to support this process;

(g) Improve and promote the collection, compilation, dissemination and use of gender equality indicators and statistics that are disaggregated by sex, age, socio-economic and other relevant indicators so as to enable the construction of appropriate tools for planning, programming and monitoring at different levels;

(h) Provide assistance, as appropriate, to agencies, including those outside government, in formulating the gender-sensitive performance indicators necessary to measure and review progress made in the field of gender equality, including the advancement of women and gender mainstreaming;

(i) Support the provision of training on gender mainstreaming and promote awareness and information campaigns and capacity-building, including gender training, to governmental bodies, at all levels, the public sector and the judiciary so as to ensure understanding of their roles and responsibilities as well as to facilitate implementation;

(j) Involve parliaments and, wherever appropriate, the judiciary in monitoring progress in gender mainstreaming and strengthening gender-related aspects of all government reporting and ensure transparency through open and participatory dialogue and the promotion of balanced participation of women and men in all areas and at all levels of decision-making;

(k) Encourage regular collaboration and partnership between national machineries for the advancement of women and academic and research institutions to promote research and development of appropriate tools and methodologies;

(l) Encourage private sector organizations to promote gender equality, including through its inclusion in their business plans and reports, and to establish structures to support the implementation of equal opportunities and gender mainstreaming;

(m) Recognize the role of civil society, in particular women's non-governmental organizations, in contributing to the development, design, implementation and effectiveness of national gender equality initiatives at local, regional and national levels, including through open and participatory dialogue;

(n) Establish or reinforce existing national machineries for the advancement of women and structure their functions appropriately at all levels in order to ensure effectiveness and accountability in gender mainstreaming;

(o) Provide national machineries for the advancement of women with necessary and adequate human and financial resources, including through exploring innovative funding schemes, so that gender mainstreaming is integrated across the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation aspects of all policies, programmes and projects;

(p) Establish or reinforce existing institutional mechanisms at all levels to work with national machineries for the advancement of women to strengthen societal support for gender equality, in cooperation with civil society, in particular women's non-governmental organizations;

7. *Emphasizes* that, while the primary responsibility for implementing gender mainstreaming rests with Governments, partnership, cooperation and the exchange of experience with all relevant stakeholders at all levels contribute to effective outcomes;

8. *Calls upon* the international community, including the United Nations system and other regional and subregional organizations, to support efforts to mainstream a gender perspective at the national level by:

(a) Supporting national Governments in their efforts to strengthen national mechanisms through official development assistance and other appropriate assistance;

(b) Encouraging multilateral, bilateral, donor and development agencies to include in their programmes of assistance activities that strengthen national machineries;

(c) Providing technical cooperation and other forms of assistance to the developing countries, in particular in Africa and the least developed countries, in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action;

(d) Facilitating the sharing of information on guidelines, methodologies and best practices and making such information available, inter alia, through a variety of formats, including web-based and electronic formats;

9. *Emphasizes* that the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment and the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly are among the essential elements for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and stresses the need to ensure the integration of a gender perspective both in the preparations for and at the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the review of the Millennium Declaration;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fiftieth session, on progress in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes, bearing in mind its two thematic issues as outlined in its multi-year programme of work.

Resolution 49/5

Integrating a gender perspective in post-disaster relief, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, including in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster*

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 46/182 of 19 December 1991, 59/212 of 20 December 2004, 59/231 of 22 December 2004, 59/232 of 22 December 2004 and 59/279 of 19 January 2005, as well as the agreed conclusions of the Commission in 2002 on environmental management and the mitigation of natural disasters,[40]

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* For the discussion, see chap. II.

Recalling also the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, adopted by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in Kobe, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005, which recognized that a gender perspective should be integrated into all disaster risk management policies, plans and decision-making processes, including those related to risk assessment, early warning, information management and education and training,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[41] and the commitment to design, implement and monitor, with the full participation of women, effective, efficient and mutually reinforcing gender-sensitive policies and programmes at all levels that will foster the empowerment and advancement of women,

Recalling the commitments regarding women and girls affected by natural disasters and other such emergencies in the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[42]

Recalling also its resolution 48/4 and Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/4 of 7 July 2004 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system,

Conscious of the number and scale of natural disasters and their increasing impact, particularly in developing countries, including the tsunami disaster that struck the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian regions on 26 December 2004, resulting in hundreds of thousands of deaths and over a million displaced and homeless persons,

Expressing concern that women and children account for the vast majority of those adversely affected by natural disasters and their aftermath, including the recent tsunami disaster, and that those living in poverty are most affected,

Noting that women have multiple and varied roles, including caring for survivors and maintaining family and community in disaster situations,

Concerned that women and girls are more vulnerable to violence, including sexual abuse and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence in many emergency situations, including in the aftermath of natural disasters,

Welcoming the response, support and assistance by the affected countries and the international community in the relief, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, which reflect the spirit of national as well as international solidarity and cooperation in addressing the recent tsunami disaster and other disasters,

Concerned that existing post-disaster relief, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, including in the recent tsunami disaster, have not sufficiently addressed the gender dimensions of the situation,

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[40] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2002, Supplement No. 1* (E/2002/99), resolution 2002/5, sect. B.

[41] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[42] General Assembly resolutions S-23/2, annex, and S-23/3, annex.

1. *Urges* Governments, in planning for disaster preparedness and responding to natural disasters, to integrate a gender perspective as well as to ensure that women take an active and equal role in all phases of disaster management;

2. *Calls* on United Nations entities and international and local humanitarian relief organizations to strengthen the gender dimensions of their responses to disaster situations;

3. *Strongly calls* on Governments and other relevant bodies, in their responses to disaster situations, to meet the needs of affected populations such as food, clean water, sanitation, shelter and physical security, and to provide services such as health care, including reproductive health, psychological health and psychosocial support as well as education, taking into account the particular needs of women and girls;

4. *Emphasizes* the importance of developing and implementing sustainable poverty reduction programmes led by the Governments of affected countries that improve access to and control over productive resources for women and girls affected by disasters;

5. *Underlines* the need for the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action[41] and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly[42] in order to address the major challenges to women and girls in natural disasters and in their aftermath;

6. *Also underlines* the need to give special attention to the vulnerabilities and capacities of marginalized groups of women and girls;

7. *Stresses* the need to utilize the expertise, knowledge and networks of women to promote gender equality and social justice in the context of disaster relief, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction and to facilitate women's access to media and information and communication technologies;

8. *Strongly urges* Governments, United Nations entities and other relevant bodies to take necessary measures, including the development and implementation of gender-sensitive codes of conduct, to protect women and girls from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse and all other forms of violence in the context of natural disasters and to provide appropriate care and support for women and girls who have been exposed to sexual abuse and other forms of violence;

9. *Urges* Governments, United Nations entities and other relevant bodies involved in post-disaster relief, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction to provide training on the protection, rights and the particular needs of women and girls and to promote gender balance and gender sensitivity among their representatives and staff;

10. *Calls* on Governments to involve women in all levels of decision-making in disaster situations, including in community-level welfare centres for displaced persons;

11. *Also calls* on Governments to promote and protect the full enjoyment of human rights by women and girls, including in the context of natural disaster relief, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts;

12. *Encourages* Governments and relevant bodies of the United Nations system, and invites donor countries, regional and international financial institutions

and civil society involved in relief, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts to implement gender-sensitive, people-centred and community-based approaches to ensure women's full and equal participation, and also encourages Governments to monitor these through various measures, including the collection and use of sex-disaggregated statistical data, in order to accurately track progress and women's participation;

13. *Urges* Governments, United Nations entities and relevant stakeholders to support gender-sensitive capacity-building at all levels of disaster management;

14. *Encourages* Governments, the United Nations system, regional organizations, and invites donor countries to address the vulnerabilities and capacities of women and girls through gender-responsive programming and allocation of resources in their post-disaster relief, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in coordination with the Governments of affected countries;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his reports to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session, the gender dimensions of relief, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts coordinated by the United Nations in situations of natural disasters, including the recent tsunami disaster.

Resolution 49/6

Strengthening of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women*

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling all relevant General Assembly resolutions on the future operations of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/57 of 24 July 2003, in which the Council decided to amend the statute of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women,

Bearing in mind the framework of the strategic plan for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, 2004-2007,

Recognizing a number of important strategic initiatives undertaken by the Institute, including the redesign of its website, the strengthening of cooperative arrangements with United Nations entities, the expansion of its research programme, the intensification of its fund-raising campaign, the enhancement of communication with governmental agencies, civil society, academia and the private sector and the strengthening of its training, capacity-building and outreach activities,

Recognizing also that the implementation of the work programme and strategic plan of the Institute will contribute to the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[43] and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[44]

1. *Welcomes* the active participation and contributions of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women to the review and

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* For the discussion, see chap. II.

[43] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[44] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[42] and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly[43] in the context of its forty-ninth session;

2. *Invites* voluntary financial contributions by Member States to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, and stresses the importance of such contributions to enable it to carry out its mandate;

3. *Urges* the Secretary-General and all relevant United Nations bodies to support efforts to strengthen the Institute, in particular by promoting its collaboration and coordination with other bodies within the United Nations system;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director of the Institute to report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fiftieth session on the implementation of its programme of work and strategic plan 2004-2007, in particular on those activities related to the follow-up to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

5. *Decides* to continue to encourage efforts to strengthen the Institute and to monitor progress in this regard during its fiftieth session.

Resolution 49/7

Indigenous women: beyond the ten-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[45] and its Optional Protocol,[46] reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[47] and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[48] the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration,[49] General Assembly resolution 59/174 of 20 December 2004 on the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, the relevant provisions of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance[50] and reaffirming the obligation of States to promote and protect the full enjoyment of all human rights by women,

Recognizing that indigenous women are part of the diversity of the women of the world and that they represent a wide variety of cultures with different needs and concerns,

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* For the discussion, see chap. II.

[45] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[46] General Assembly resolution 54/4, annex.

[47] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[48] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[49] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[50] See A/CONF.189/12 and Corr.1, chap. I.

Welcoming the fact that the theme of the third session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues focused on indigenous women, and taking note of the recommendations, which emphasize equality, non-discrimination, the diversity of cultural identities and social organization of indigenous women and girls,

Recognizing that profound inequalities exist between indigenous women and other groups and that addressing these inequalities through the full implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session is essential to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration,

1. *Calls upon* Governments to take into account the concerns of indigenous women throughout the implementation, follow-up work and monitoring of the Beijing Platform for Action and the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;[49]

2. *Calls upon* Governments, intergovernmental agencies, the private sector and civil society to take measures that ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous women in all aspects of society;

3. *Calls* for effective international cooperation to improve the situation of indigenous women and girls;

4. *Stresses* the importance of full consultation and collaboration of Governments with indigenous women, while planning and implementing objectives and activities for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

Resolution 49/8
Economic advancement for women

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming the goals, objectives and commitments of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[51] and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[52]

Recalling the goals and commitments of all other relevant major United Nations conferences and summits,

Recalling also the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[53]

Recalling further General Assembly resolutions 58/142 of 22 December 2003 on women and political participation, 58/206 of 23 December 2003 on women in development and 59/246 of 22 December 2004 on the role of microcredit and microfinance in the eradication of poverty,

Recalling its agreed conclusions on eradicating poverty, including through the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle, in a globalizing world, and its agreed conclusions on the participation and access of women to the media, and information and communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women,

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[51] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[52] General Assembly resolution S-26/2, annex, and resolution S-26/3, annex.

[53] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

Noting the report of the Commission on the Private Sector and Development entitled *Unleashing Entrepreneurship: Making Business Work for the Poor*,[54]

Noting also the report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization entitled *A Fair Globalization: Creating Opportunities for All*,[55]

Noting further that hundreds of millions of women and girls, worldwide, live in poverty and that the majority live in rural areas where their livelihoods are dependent on subsistence and small-holder agriculture and employment in the informal sector, including forest and common property resources,

Emphasizing that the empowerment of women is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty and that the implementation of special measures aimed at empowering women can help to achieve this,

Recognizing that improving women's economic status also improves the economic status of their families and their communities and thereby creates a multiplier effect for economic growth,

Recognizing also that women should have equal opportunities to achieve economic independence, since discrimination against women and lack of equal access to education, training, financial services, employment and entrepreneurial opportunities and other economic resources, property and inheritance rights and other legal protections pose a major obstacle to sustainable economic growth, sustainable development and the sustainable economic advancement of women,

Emphasizing that full representation and full and equal participation of women in political, social and economic decision-making in societies enhances socio-economic development policies,

Recognizing that diligent and transparent application of the rule of law at the national, regional and international levels, access to justice and democracy and the promotion of women's economic autonomy and non-discrimination policies are necessary elements in the promotion of sustainable economic growth and sustainable development,

Reaffirming that the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms is essential for the empowerment of women and girls,

Aware that while globalization and liberalization processes have created employment opportunities for women in many countries, in particular in developing and least developed countries, they have also made women more vulnerable to problems caused by increased economic volatility,

Recognizing that women's social and economic marginalization and unequal rights can hamper their ability to fully and effectively participate in the economic life of their communities and societies and that they may need special support and legal empowerment in order to address the challenges and take full advantage of the opportunities of globalization and market liberalization,

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[54] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.04.III.B.4.

[55] See A/59/98-E/2004/79.

Highlighting that enhanced trade opportunities and market access for developing countries, including through trade liberalization, will improve the economic condition of those societies, including for women, which is of particular importance in rural communities,

Recognizing that the difficult socio-economic conditions that exist in many developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, are linked to the feminization of poverty,

Recognizing and expressing concern that the gender division of labour, especially the persistent unequal sharing of remunerated and unremunerated labour between women and men, and the lack of support services continue to limit women's ability to benefit from economic opportunities, gain economic autonomy, access social security systems and build economic stability, including their ability to withstand adverse economic environments and preserve livelihoods, assets and revenue in times of crisis,

Acknowledging that people living in poverty, particularly women, need better access to financial services, including savings, insurance, remittance transfers, payment services, and credit, and that women have the proven ability to be diligent savers, prudent borrowers and investors and successful entrepreneurs,

Recognizing that information and communications technology can be a vital tool for training and empowering women,

Recognizing also that access to basic affordable health-care services, preventative health information and the highest standard of health care is critical to women's economic advancement, that lack of economic empowerment and independence increases women's vulnerability to a range of negative health consequences, including the risk of contracting HIV/AIDS, and that the neglect of women's reproductive rights severely limits their opportunities in public and private life, including the opportunity for education and economic and political empowerment,

Noting with concern that lack of economic empowerment increases women's vulnerability to all forms of violence,

Recognizing with appreciation all regional and national efforts in mainstreaming a gender perspective and the empowerment of women towards the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, including the increasing efforts of African countries in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

1. *Calls* on Member States to strengthen efforts to implement national and international commitments that will advance women's equality;

2. *Also calls* on Member States to promote gender mainstreaming in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation phases of all economic and social policies;

3. *Further calls* on Member States to improve, promote and build capacity for the collection, dissemination and analysis of gender-sensitive statistical indicators and reliable statistics that are disaggregated by sex as well as other relevant factors in order to facilitate better policy development, monitoring and evaluation of the economic and social advancement of women;

4. *Urges* Member States to eliminate discrimination, ensure equal rights and access and actively enable participation by women and girls in education and training at all levels, including by developing programmes with the aim of equipping women with business, trade, information and communication technology and entrepreneurship skills;

5. *Calls* on Member States to undertake legislative, administrative and financial measures to create a strong enabling environment for all women entrepreneurs and women participating in the labour market, including: a sound macroeconomic framework; accountable systems for managing public resources; and a business climate that attracts investment and promotes movement from the informal to the formal sector through, inter alia, competitive markets, enforceable contracts, the absence of corruption, regulatory policies that promote public confidence in the market and reducing barriers to international trade within an appropriate time frame;

6. *Urges* Member States to design and revise laws to ensure that women are accorded full and equal rights to own land and other property, including through inheritance, and to undertake administrative reforms and other necessary measures to give women the right to credit, capital, appropriate technologies and access to markets and information;

7. *Calls* on Member States to facilitate further development of the financial sector in order to increase women's access to and control over savings, credit and other financial services through incentives and development of intermediaries that serve the needs of women entrepreneurs on an equal opportunity basis in both rural and urban areas and to fully include women in management, planning and decision-making processes;

8. *Also calls* on Member States to adopt policies and consider allocating resources, as appropriate, that support business and professional organizations, public agencies, non-governmental organizations, cooperatives, revolving loan funds, such as microfinance funds, credit unions and other women's grass-roots and self-help groups in order to meet the needs of women entrepreneurs in rural and urban areas;

9. *Further calls* on Member States to enhance access for women to information and communications technology-based economic activities in all sectors, such as small and medium-sized business and home-based employment, information systems and improved technologies, and to further develop telecentres, community access points and business incubators;

10. *Calls* on Member States to enhance rural women's income-generating potential, noting the importance of the agricultural sector, particularly in the developing countries, and the importance of greater security of land tenure and property ownership for resource mobilization and environmental management, and to consider special temporary measures to empower women in the rural sector to meet the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities of agricultural market liberalization;

11. *Urges* Member States to eliminate discrimination against women in labour markets, employment practices and the workplace, providing equal access for women to occupational categories and sectors where they are underrepresented, equal opportunities with respect to the right to organize and participate in labour

unions and collective bargaining, including on employment conditions, career development opportunities and equal pay for equal work or work of equal value, to take action to remove structural and legal barriers, as well as stereotypical attitudes to gender in work and training and to eliminate pay differences based on gender through a multifaceted approach addressing underlying factors, including sectoral and occupational segregation, education and training, job classification and payment systems;

12. *Calls* on Member States to respect, promote and realize the principles contained in the International Labour Organization Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its follow-up, and to consider ratification and full implementation of the conventions of the International Labour Organization that are particularly relevant to ensuring women's rights at work;

13. *Also calls* on Member States to adopt temporary special measures, where needed, aimed at accelerating de facto equality between men and women in all economic and employment sectors and occupational categories, to recognize the need for special supports for women to take advantage of the opportunities afforded by international trade and, where necessary, to introduce preventive policy measures to avoid further marginalization of women;

14. *Further calls* on Member States to recognize, develop and promote policies, including workplace policies and other supports such as maternity and parental benefits and leave, childcare and care for other dependants, that facilitate the reconciliation of employment and family responsibilities and recognize the importance of the value of non-market contributions that individuals and families make to society and the economy, ensuring the right for women and men to decide freely and responsibly on the number, timing and spacing of their children, encouraging men to share equally with women household, childcare and other care-giving responsibilities and also ensuring that women have equal rights to social security and other entitlements;

15. *Calls* on Member States to strengthen the incentive role of the public sector as employer in order to develop an environment that effectively affirms and empowers women;

16. *Calls* on Member States and international organizations to promote policies and programmes that enhance economic and networking opportunities and to develop and provide support services to specific groups of women who are disadvantaged or in a position of vulnerability;

17. *Calls* on Member States to recognize the significant contribution of migrant women to the economic development of both their country of origin and that of destination, to enhance, in accordance with national legislation, their employment opportunities, taking into account their skills, and to establish practices to reduce the transfer costs for migrant workers' remittances;

18. *Encourages* all relevant United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, in accordance with their respective mandates, to assist Governments at their request, in strengthening their capacity to promote and support the economic advancement of women through, inter alia, employment and entrepreneurship practices and programmes that affirm and empower women;

19. *Urges* donors, and invites international financial institutions and regional development banks, within their respective mandates, to review and implement policies that support national efforts to increase resources to women, in particular in rural and remote areas;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fiftieth session.

Decision 49/101
Review of methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women*

The Commission on the Status of Women decides to continue discussion of its working methods during its fiftieth session in 2006.

Decision 49/102
Proposed programme of work of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women for the biennium 2006-2007*

The Commission on the Status of Women decides to take note of the proposed programme of work, as contained in document E/CN.6/2005/CRP.3.

Decision 49/103
Documents considered by the Commission on the Status of Women under agenda item 3*

At its resumed 20th meeting, on 22 March 2005, the Commission on the Status of Women took note of the following documents:

Under item 3 (a)

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on measures taken and progress achieved in the follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, with an assessment of progress made in mainstreaming a gender perspective within the United Nations system;[56]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women;[57]

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan;[58]

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the joint work plan of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;[59]

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* For the discussion, see chap. II.

[56] E/CN.6/2005/3.

[57] E/CN.6/2005/4.

[58] E/CN.6/2005/5.

[59] E/CN.4/2005/69-E/CN.6/2005/6.

(e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the elimination of violence against women.[60]

Under item 3 (c)

Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century".[61]

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[60] E/CN.6/2005/7-E/CN.4/2005/70.

[61] E/CN.6/2005/2.

Chapter II

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

1. The Commission considered agenda item 3 at its 1st to 20th meetings, from 28 February to 11 March and at its resumed 20th meeting on 22 March 2005. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women in the context of integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields (E/CN.6/2004/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on measures taken and progress achieved in the follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, with an assessment of progress made in mainstreaming a gender perspective within the United Nations system (E/CN.6/2005/3);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (E/CN.6/2005/4);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan (E/CN.6/2005/5);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the joint work plan of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (E/CN.4/2005/69-E/CN.6/2005/6);

(f) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/166 (E/CN.6/2005/7-E/CN.4/2005/70);

(g) Letter dated 25 February 2005 from the Permanent Representatives of Canada, Jordan, Mexico, the Niger and Slovenia to the United Nations addressed to Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2005/9);

(h) Letter dated 2 March 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2005/10);

(i) Statements submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2005/NGO/1-44);

(j) Note by the Secretary-General on the results of the thirty-second session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (E/CN.6/2005/CRP.1);

(k) Note by the Bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women: discussion guide on the Commission on the Status of Women high-level round table (E/CN.6/2005/CRP.2);

(l) Note by the Secretariat on the proposed programme of work of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women for the biennium 2006-2007 (E/CN.6/2005/CRP.3);

(m) Note by the Secretariat as an input to the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council of 2005 (E/CN.6/2005/CRP.4);

(n) Note by the Secretariat on measures taken by entities of the United Nations system in promoting the implementation of the twelve critical areas of concern (E/CN.6/2005/CRP.6);

(o) Report on regional processes in preparation for the review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly during the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status (E/CN.6/2005/CRP.7);

(p) Report on the seventh African Regional Conference on Women: Decade review of the implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action (E/CN.6/2005/CRP.7/Add.1);

(q) Report of the Economic Commission for Europe on the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 10-year review of implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, 14-15 December 2004 (E/CN.6/2005/CRP.7/Add.2);

(r) Report of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on the ninth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (E/CN.6/2005/CRP.7/Add.3);

(s) Report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on the high-level intergovernmental meeting to review regional implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and its regional and global outcomes (E/CN.6/2005/CRP.7/Add.4);

(t) Report of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on the Arab Regional Conference: Ten years after Beijing: Call for peace (E/CN.6/2005/CRP.7/Add.5).

2. At its 2nd meeting, on 28 February, introductory statements were made by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, the Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women, the Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Director of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), the Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights.

3. The Commission held its high-level plenary discussion at its 3rd to 6th, 11th, 12th, 14th and 16th meetings, on 1 and 2 and from 7 to 9 March.

4. At its 3rd meeting, on 1 March, statements were made by the representatives of Luxembourg (on behalf of the European Union, the acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania, the candidate countries Turkey and Croatia, and the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and

Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro), Jamaica (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Jordan (also on behalf of the Consultative Committee for UNIFEM), the Gambia, Croatia, Kyrgyzstan, Tonga, Uzbekistan, Panama, Mali, South Africa, Sweden, France, Austria, Israel, Morocco, Ireland, Honduras, Switzerland, Norway, Denmark, Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, and the United Republic of Tanzania.

5. At its 4th meeting, on 1 March, statements were made by the representatives of Iceland, Cyprus, Brazil, Cape Verde, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Andorra, Italy, Peru, New Zealand, Suriname, Burkina Faso, Finland, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Indonesia, Cambodia, Bahrain, Ghana, Nigeria, Malaysia, Eritrea, Antigua and Barbuda, the Palestinian National Authority, the Netherlands and Tunisia.

6. At its 5th meeting on 2 March, statements were made by the representatives of Canada, the Bahamas, Senegal, Mexico, Algeria, Egypt, Barbados, Iraq, Azerbaijan, Kenya, Chile, Guinea, Zambia, Madagascar, also on behalf of the African Group, Bangladesh, Turkey, Costa Rica, Haiti, Afghanistan, Paraguay, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

7. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, statements were made by the representatives of Namibia, Uganda, India, Australia, the Congo, Qatar, Bolivia, Japan, China, Mauritania, Pakistan, Viet Nam, United Arab Emirates, Lesotho, Germany, Lithuania, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Guatemala, the United States of America, Portugal, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Syrian Arab Republic, Kazakhstan, Argentina, on behalf of the Rio Group, and Belgium.

8. At the 9th meeting, on 4 March, the Commission met in observance of International Women's Day. The Chairperson made a statement.

9. The 9th meeting in observance of International Women's Day was moderated by the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information.

10. At the 9th meeting, the Commission heard a message from Helvi Sipila, Secretary-General, World Conference of the International Women's Year (1975).

11. Also at the 9th meeting, statements were made by Rigoberta Menchú Tum, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate; Glenda Simms, Executive Director, Office of the Prime Minister, Bureau of Women's Affairs of Jamaica (on behalf of Lucille Mair, Secretary-General, Second World Conference on Women (1980)); Bani Dugal, Chairperson, NGO Committee on the Status of Women; Leticia Shahani, Secretary-General, World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women (1985); Gertrude Mongella, Secretary-General, Fourth World Conference on Women (1995); Angela E. V. King, former United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women; Rachel Mayanja, Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women; and Wangari Maathai, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate.

12. At its 11th meeting, on 7 March, statements were made by the representatives of the Russian Federation, Slovenia, Cuba, Malawi, Nepal, Burundi, the Niger, Fiji, Gabon, Angola, Timor-Leste, Mongolia, the Philippines, Samoa, the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Colombia, Yemen, Rwanda, Togo, Mauritius and the Republic of Korea.

13. At its 12th meeting, on 7 March, statements were made by the representatives of Myanmar, Thailand, Belize, the Czech Republic, Hungary, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Ecuador, the Holy See, Jamaica, Malta, Ethiopia, Guyana and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

14. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations: European Community; African Union; Commonwealth Secretariat; International Organization of la Francophonie; International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions; International Organization for Migration; Inter-Parliamentary Union; International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources; International Committee of the Red Cross; Pacific Islands Forum; and International Fund for Agricultural Development.

15. Also at the 12th meeting, a statement was made by the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on trafficking in persons.

16. At the same meeting, a statement was also made by the representative of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

17. The representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia made a statement on behalf of the five regional commissions.

18. At its 14th meeting, on 8 March, statements were made by the representatives of the World Bank, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

19. Also at the 14th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

20. At its 16th meeting, on 9 March, statements were made by the representatives of the Central African Republic, Benin, Vanuatu, Georgia, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Chad and the Sudan.

21. Also at the 16th meeting, statements were made by the following non-governmental organizations: Human Rights Advocates; International Federation for Human Rights; Amnesty International; Ad Hoc Peace Caucus; All India Women's Conference; International Planned Parenthood Federation; ISIS International, Manila; Ecumenical Women 2000 Coalition; and Global Unions Caucus.

22. At the 19th meeting, on 11 March, the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women presented an oral report on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system.

23. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women introduced the proposed programme of work for the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women for the biennium 2006-2007.

Agenda item 3 (a)
Review of gender mainstreaming in entities of the United Nations system

Agenda item 3 (c)
A. High-level round table of the Commission on the Status of Women on innovations in institutional arrangements for promoting gender equality at the national level

24. At its 2nd meeting, on 28 February, the Commission held parallel round tables on the topic "Innovations in institutional arrangements for promoting gender equality at the national level".

High-level round table
(Economic and Social Council Chamber)

25. The Commission held a high-level round table moderated by Ms. Kyung-wha Kang (Republic of Korea), Chairperson of the Commission.

26. The Co-Chair of the expert group meeting held in Rome, Ms. Grace Kyomuhendo (Uganda), made a statement.

27. The following delegations took part in the round table: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Chile, Croatia, France, Guinea, Honduras, Ireland, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Palestine, Rwanda, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Viet Nam and Zambia.

28. A statement was made by the representative of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

29. Statements were also made by the representatives of UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia as well as by the following representatives of non-governmental organizations: Devaki Jain (India), Charlotte Bunch (United States of America), Tai Tuatagaloa-Matalavea (Samoa), Eva Fodor (Hungary) and Peggy Antrobus (Grenada).

High-level round table
(Trusteeship Council Chamber)

30. The Commission held a high-level round table moderated by Mr. Gilbert Laurin, Deputy Permanent Representative of Canada.

31. The Co-Chair of the expert group meeting held in Rome, Ms. Nuket Kardam (Turkey), made a statement.

32. The following delegations took part in the round table: Algeria, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Denmark, Georgia, Ghana, Indonesia, Jordan, Luxembourg, Mauritania, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Senegal and Suriname.

33. Statements were made by the representatives of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the Economic Commission for Europe and UNFPA.

34. Statements were also made by the following representatives of non-governmental organizations: Rounaq Jahan (Bangladesh), Carmen Barroso (Brazil), Vina Nadjibulla (Afghanistan), Wanda Nowicka (Poland) and Mona Khalae (Lebanon).

35. At the resumed 20th meeting, on 22 March, the Commission decided to include the Chairpersons' summary of the high-level round table in the report of the Commission (see annex I).

Panel discussions on agenda item 3 (c)

B. Synergies between national-level implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

36. At its 7th meeting, on 3 March, the Commission held a panel discussion and dialogue on synergies between national-level implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

37. Presentations were made by the following panellists: Louise Arbour, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; Rosario Manalo, Chairperson, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women; Melanie S. Griffin, Minister of Social Services and Community Development of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas; Valerie Knowles (Bahamas), Programme Director of the Health and Family Life Resource Centre of the Bahamas Family Planning Association; Dubravka Šimonović, Head of the Human Rights Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia; and Sanja Sarnavka (Croatia), President of the Women's Health Rights Group, "Be active, Be emancipated".

38. The Commission then held a dialogue with the panellists, in which the following delegations participated: Algeria, Azerbaijan, Canada, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, El Salvador, Guinea, Indonesia, Morocco, Norway, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Senegal, Switzerland and Tunisia.

39. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council also participated in the dialogue: Japanese Association of International Women's Rights (on behalf of the Asian Pacific Caucus); Women's Human Rights International Association (on behalf of a coalition of non-governmental organizations); and Equality Now (on behalf of 18 non-governmental organizations).

40. Also at its resumed 20th meeting, the Commission decided to include the moderator's summary of the panel discussion in the report of the Commission (see annex II).

C. Addressing the linkages between the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration: progress, gaps and challenges

41. At its 8th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission held a panel discussion and dialogue on addressing the linkages between the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration: progress, gaps and challenges.

42. Presentations were made by the following panellists: Nknosazana Clarice Dlamini Zuma, Minister for Foreign Affairs of South Africa; Zéphirin Diabré, Associate Administrator, UNDP; Professor Naila Kabeer, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex; Caren Grown, International Center for Research on Women, Washington, D.C.; and Susana Chiarotti Boero, Institute for Gender, Rights and Development, Rosario, Argentina.

43. Following the presentations, the Commission held a dialogue with the panellists, in which the following delegations participated: Bangladesh, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Cambodia, Canada, Egypt, Fiji, Germany, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Luxembourg, Mauritania, Mexico, Netherlands, Palestine, South Africa and Turkey.

44. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations also participated in the dialogue: United Cities and Local Governments; Global Unions Caucus; and International Council of Women.

45. At the resumed 20th meeting, on 22 March, the Commission decided to include the moderator's summary of the panel discussion in the report of the Commission (see annex III).

Presentation of the review and appraisal processes at the regional level: achievements, gaps and challenges

46. At its 10th meeting, on 4 March, the Commission held a panel discussion and dialogue on the presentation of the review and appraisal processes at the regional level: achievements, gaps and challenges.

47. Presentations were made by the following panellists: Josephine Ouedraogo, Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa; Patrice Robineau, Acting Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe; Alicia Bárcena Ibarra, Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; Thelma Kay, Chief, Emerging Social Issues Division, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; and Fatima Sbaity-Kassem, Director, Centre for Women, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

48. Following the presentations, the Commission held a dialogue with the panellists, in which the following delegations participated: Cuba, Israel, Palestine and Senegal.

49. The representative of the Latin American caucus of non-governmental organizations also participated in the dialogue.

50. At the resumed 20th meeting, on 22 March, the Commission decided to include the moderator's summary of the panel discussion in the report of the Commission (see annex IV).

Remaining challenges in relation to statistics and indicators, building on the discussion at the high-level round table organized at the forty-eighth session of the Commission in 2004 as well as available data from *The World's Women: Trends and Statistics* (2005) and the *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development* (2005)

51. At the 14th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission held a panel discussion on remaining challenges in relation to statistics and indicators, building on the discussion at the high-level round table organized at the forty-eighth session of the Commission in 2004 as well as available data from the publications *The World's Women: Trends and Statistics* (2005) and the *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development* (2005).

52. Presentations were made by the following panellists: Paula Monina Collado, Deputy Administrator, Philippines National Statistics Office; Tatiana Gorbacheva, Director, Department for Statistics of Labour, Education, Science and Culture, Russian Federation; Vivian Milosavljevic, representative of the Women and Development Unit, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; June Zeitlin, Executive Director of the Women's Environment and Development Organization; Mary Chamie, Chief, Demographic and Social Statistics Branch, United Nations Statistics Division; Hania Zlotnik, Director, Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs; Kristina Kangaspunta, representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; and Francesca Perucci, Officer-in-charge, Statistical Planning and Development Section, United Nations Statistics Division.

53. Following the presentations, the Commission held a dialogue with the panellists, in which the following delegations participated: Barbados, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Fiji, Italy, Kenya, Mauritania and Norway.

54. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations also participated in the dialogue: European Roma Rights .Centre; All China Women's Federation; and Gabriela.

55. At the resumed 20th meeting, on 22 March, the Commission decided to include the moderator's summary of the panel discussion in the report of the Commission (see annex V).

Future perspectives on the promotion of gender equality: through the eyes of young women and men

56. At its 15th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission held a panel discussion on "Future perspectives on the promotion of gender equality: through the eyes of young women and men".

57. Presentations were made by the following panellists: Ms. Frida Ohlsson (Sweden); Ms. Ingrid Tharasook (Thailand); Mr. Srdjan Stakic (UNFPA); Ms. Catalina Devandas Aguilar (Costa Rica); Mr. Michael Flood (Australia); Ms. Felicitas Martínez Solano (Mexico); and Mr. Edford Gandu Mutum (Zambia).

58. Following the presentations, the Commission held a dialogue with the panellists, in which the following delegations participated: Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Iceland, Jamaica, Morocco, Norway, Samoa, Senegal, South Africa, Suriname and Thailand.

59. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations also participated in the dialogue: Girls' Caucus at the forty-ninth session of the Commission; Commission on the Status of Women Youth Caucus; World Association of Girl Guides; and Girl Scouts of the United States of America.

60. At the resumed 20th meeting, on 22 March, the Commission decided to include the moderator's summary of the panel discussion in the report of the Commission (see annex VI).

Integration of gender perspectives in macroeconomics

61. At the 17th meeting, on 10 March, the Commission held a panel discussion on integration of gender perspectives in macroeconomics.

62. Presentations were made by the following panellists: Mrs. Nenadi Usman, Minister of State for Finance, Nigeria; Danny Leipziger, Vice-President for Poverty Reduction and Economic Management, World Bank; Marco Ferroni, Deputy Manager, Sustainable Development Department, Inter-American Development Bank; Yassine Fall, Senior Policy Adviser on Gender Equality, United Nations Millennium Project; and Jayati Ghosh, Jahawarlal Nehru University, India.

63. The Commission then held a dialogue with the panellists, in which the following delegations participated: Algeria, Bangladesh, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Cambodia, China, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Luxembourg, Morocco, Norway, Philippines, Samoa, Thailand and Yemen.

64. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations also participated in the dialogue: European Women's Lobby; and Women's Environment and Development Organization.

65. At the resumed 20th meeting, on 22 March, the Commission decided to include the moderator's summary of the panel discussion in the report of the Commission (see annex VII).

The role of regional and intergovernmental organizations in promoting gender equality

66. The Commission held a panel discussion on the role of regional and intergovernmental organizations in promoting gender equality.

67. Presentations were made by the following panellists: Dr. Rawwida Baksh, Deputy Director, Head of Gender Section, Social Transformation Programmes Division, Commonwealth Secretariat; Dr. Wadouda Badran, Director-General, Arab Women Organization, League of Arab States; Carmen Lomellin, Executive

Secretary, Inter-American Commission of Women, Organization of American States; Beatrix Attinger Colijn, Senior Adviser on Gender Issues, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Secretariat; Luisella Pavan-Woolfe, Director, International Affairs Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, European Commission; and Winnie Byanyima, Director, Women, Gender and Development, African Union Commission.

68. The Commission then held a dialogue with the panellists, in which the following delegations participated: Armenia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Jamaica, Luxembourg (on behalf of the European Union) and Norway.

69. The representative of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) participated in the dialogue.

70. The representatives of the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Economic Community of West African States also participated in the dialogue.

71. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations also participated in the dialogue: Economic Commission for Europe region/CIS Caucus non-governmental organizations; Femme Africa Solidarité; and NGO-Commission on the Status of Women Caucus on Violence against Women.

72. At the resumed 20th meeting, on 22 March, the Commission decided to include the moderator's summary of the panel discussion in the report of the Commission (see annex VIII).

Action taken by the Commission

Declaration adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-ninth session on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women

73. At its 10th meeting, on 4 March, the Commission had before it a draft declaration by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-ninth session (E/CN.6/2005/L.1), submitted by the Chairperson of the Commission, Ms. Kyung-wha Kang (Republic of Korea).

74. At the same meeting, the Chairperson orally corrected the preambular paragraph by replacing the words "and the contribution of the Commission to the High-level Plenary Meeting" with the words "and its contribution to the High-level Plenary Meeting".

75. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft declaration, as orally corrected (see chap. I, sect. A).

76. In accordance with the provisions of Economic and Social Council decision 2004/309, the Chairperson would transmit the declaration through the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session, including to the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the review of the Millennium Declaration.

77. After the adoption of the declaration, statements in explanation of position were made by the representatives of the United States of America,[1] Iceland,[1] India,

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[1] See annex IX.

Cuba, Nigeria (also on behalf of the African Union), and by the observers for Uruguay, Luxembourg (on behalf of the European Union),[1] Panama, Mexico,[1] Costa Rica,[1] Norway, Iraq, Afghanistan, Fiji, Malta,[1] New Zealand (on behalf of Australia, Canada and New Zealand),[1] Nicaragua,[1] Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Equatorial Guinea and Paraguay (on behalf of MERCOSUR and its associated countries), as well as by the observer for the Holy See.[1]

Women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS

78. At the 13th meeting, on 8 March, the observer for Mauritius,[2] on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Southern African Development Community, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS" (E/CN.6/2005/L.2), which read as follows:

> "*The Commission on the Status of Women*,
>
> "*Recalling* the goals and targets set forth in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session in 2001, and the HIV/AIDS-related goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 2000, in particular the aim of Member States to have halted, by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS,
>
> "*Recalling also* its resolutions 46/2 of 15 March 2002, 47/1 of 10 March 2003 and 48/2 of 9 March 2004 on women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS,
>
> "*Recalling further* the Declaration and Plan of Action contained in the final document of the special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled 'A world fit for children', and recognizing that their implementation is a major contribution to protecting the rights and promoting the well-being of children,
>
> "*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 58/236 of 23 December 2003, entitled 'Follow-up to the outcome of the twenty-sixth special session: implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS',
>
> "*Recalling also* Commission on Human Rights resolution 203/29 of 29 April 2003, entitled, 'Access to medication in the context of pandemics such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria',
>
> "*Welcoming* the launch, in February 2004, of the Joint United Nations Programme on AIDS and its partners of the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS, which seeks to raise awareness of the effects of HIV/AIDS on women and girls and to stimulate and increase action in the fight against HIV/AIDS,
>
> "*Also welcoming* the high-level meeting on HIV/AIDS, scheduled to take place on 2 June 2005, to review the progress achieved in realizing the commitments set out in the Declaration of Commitments on HIV/AIDS,
>
> "*Acknowledging* that prevention, care, support and treatment for those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS are mutually reinforcing elements of an effective response and must be integrated in a comprehensive approach to combat the epidemic,

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[2] In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

"*Recognizing* that populations destabilized by armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, including refugees, internally displaced persons and, in particular, women and children, are at an increased risk of exposure to HIV infection,

"*Deeply concerned* that the global HIV/AIDS pandemic disproportionately affects women and girls and that the majority of new HIV infections occurs among young people,

"*Concerned* that women's unequal legal, economic and social status and violence against women and girls as well as other cultural and physiological factors increase their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS,

"*Also concerned* that women and girls have different and unequal access to and use of health resources for the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS,

"1. *Stresses with deep concern* that the HIV/AIDS emergency, with its devastating scale and impact, requires urgent actions in all fields and at all levels;

"2. *Also stresses* that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are fundamental elements in the reduction of their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, and emphasizes that the advancement of women and girls is key to reversing the pandemic;

"3. *Reaffirms* the need for Governments, supported by relevant actors, including civil society, to intensify national efforts and international cooperation in the implementation of the commitments on HIV/AIDS contained in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and to work towards effectively reflecting in their national policies and strategies the gender dimension of the pandemic, in line with the time-bound goals of the Declaration;

"4. *Urges* Governments to take all necessary measures to empower women and strengthen their economic independence and to protect and promote their full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to enable them to protect themselves from HIV infection;

"5. *Also urges* Governments to strengthen initiatives that would increase the capacities of women and adolescent girls to protect themselves from the risk of HIV infection, principally through the provision of health care and health services, including for sexual and reproductive health and through prevention education that promotes gender equality within a culturally and gender sensitive framework;

"6. *Further urges* Governments to expand access to treatment, in a progressive and sustainable manner, including the prevention and treatment of opportunistic diseases and effective use of antiretroviral medication and to promote access to low-cost effective drugs and related pharmaceutical products;

"7. *Calls upon* Governments to intensify efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls in relation to HIV/AIDS, including through challenging stereotypes, stigmatization, discriminatory attitudes and gender inequalities and to encourage the active involvement of men and boys in this regard;

"8. *Encourages* the continued collaboration among the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the World Health Organization and other United Nations agencies, as well as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and other international organizations to address and reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS, in particular in the context of emergency situations and as part of humanitarian efforts, and also encourages the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in their work;

"9. *Welcomes* the commitment by the World Health Organization and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS to work with the international community to support developing countries in achieving the target of providing antiretroviral medicines to three million people infected with HIV/AIDS by the end of 2005, the '3 by 5' target;

"10. *Encourages* the ongoing work by the United Nations system in providing widespread information on the gender dimension of the pandemic and in raising awareness about the critical intersection between gender inequality and HIV/AIDS;

"11. *Emphasizes* the need for the rapid scaling up of treatment programmes to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV and to encourage men to participate with women in programmes designed to prevent mother-to-child transmission;

"12. *Encourages* the design and implementation of programmes to enable men, including young men, to adopt safe and responsible sexual and reproductive behaviour and to use effective methods to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS;

"13. *Recognizes* the importance of young men and women having access to the information, education, including peer education and youth specific HIV education, and services necessary to develop the life skills required to reduce their vulnerability to HIV infection, in full participation with young persons, parents, families, educators and health-care providers;

"14. *Calls* for enhanced efforts by all relevant actors to include a gender perspective in the development of HIV/AIDS programmes and policies and in the training of personnel involved in implementing such programmes, including through focusing on the role of men and boys in addressing HIV/AIDS;

"15. *Urges* Governments to continue to promote the participation and the significant contribution of people living with HIV/AIDS, young people and civil society actors in addressing the problem of HIV/AIDS in all its aspects, including promoting a gender perspective, and also to promote their full involvement and participation in the design, planning, implementation and evaluation of HIV/AIDS programmes;

"16. *Welcomes* financial contributions made to date towards the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, urges further contributions to sustain the Fund, and calls upon all countries to encourage the private sector to contribute to the Fund;

"17. *Calls upon* all Governments to take measures to ensure that the necessary resources are made available, in particular from donor countries and

> also from national budgets in line with the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS;
>
> "18. *Invites* the Secretary-General to take a gender perspective into account when preparing the report requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 58/236;
>
> "19. *Decides* to consider this question further at its fiftieth session."

79. At the 19th meeting, on 11 March, the Commission had before it a revised draft resolution submitted by Mauritius,[2] on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Southern African Development Community, entitled "Women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS" (E/CN.6/2005/L.2/Rev.1).

80. At the same meeting, the observer for Mauritius further orally revised the first preambular paragraph of the text by replacing the word "Recalling" with the word "Reaffirming".

81. Also at the same meeting, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, China, Cuba, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, the Niger, Nigeria, Panama, the Republic of Korea, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tunisia and Turkey joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution.

82. Also at the 19th meeting, the Commission was advised that the revised draft resolution contained no programme implications.

83. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. D, resolution 49/1).

84. After the adoption of the resolution, statements were made by the representative of the United States of America and the observer for Andorra.

Eliminating demand for trafficked women and girls for all forms of exploitation

85. At the 13th meeting, on 8 March, the representative of the United States introduced a draft resolution entitled "Reducing demand for trafficked women and girls" (E/CN.6/2005/L.3), which read as follows:

> "*The Commission on the Status of Women*,
>
> "*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 59/166 of 20 December 2004 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 2004/45 of 19 April 2004,
>
> "*Acknowledging* the fact that the majority of victims of trafficking in persons are women and girls,
>
> "*Concerned* about the increasing occurrence of trafficking for purposes of sexual exploitation and sex tourism,
>
> "*Recognizing* that prostitution and the trafficking in persons for the purpose of prostitution are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person and endanger the welfare of the individual, the family, and the community,

"*Recognizing also* that the use of women in international prostitution and trafficking networks has become a major focus of international organized crime,

"*Convinced* that a key element to combating the particular problem of trafficking in women and girls is reducing the demand for victims, including the demand for prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation,

"*Deeply concerned* over the commission of unconscionable acts of sexual abuse and exploitation by a number of uniformed peacekeepers and civilian officials of some United Nations peacekeeping missions, and concerned that such activity fuels the demand for victims of trafficking,

"1. *Calls upon* Governments to:

"(a) Adopt or strengthen legislative or other measures, such as educational, social or other measures, including through bilateral and multilateral cooperation, to discourage the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of persons, especially women and children, and that leads to trafficking;

"(b) Criminalize trafficking in persons, especially women and children, in all its forms and to condemn and penalize traffickers and intermediaries, while ensuring protection and assistance to the victims of trafficking, with full respect for their human rights;

"(c) Enforce or adopt legislative and other measures to deter exploiters and sex buyers who create the demand for prostitution that leads to sex trafficking;

"(d) Conclude bilateral, subregional, regional and international agreements to address the problem of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, including mutual assistance treaties to enhance police cooperation, agreements and memoranda of understanding on information-sharing, and specific measures aimed at reducing demand;

"2. *Also calls upon* Governments and civil society to:

"(a) Take appropriate measures to raise public awareness of the issue of trafficking in persons, particularly in women and girls, including to address the demand side of the problem, to publicize laws, regulations and penalties relating to this issue and to emphasize that trafficking is a crime, in order to eliminate the demand for trafficked women and children, including by sex tourists;

"(b) Implement educational programmes, including at the local level, in order to raise awareness of the negative consequences of prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation, including the links to trafficking in persons, organized crime and harmful public health effects, and to inform sex buyers of the violence that prostitutes experience;

"(c) Conduct research on the relationship between the trafficking of women and children for sex and legislation governing prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation;

"3. *Encourages* the business sector, in particular the tourism industry and Internet providers, to:

"(a) Develop or adhere to codes of conduct with a view to preventing trafficking in persons and protecting the victims of such traffic, especially those in prostitution, and promoting their rights, dignity and security;

"(b) Collaborate and take action in coordination with governmental and non-governmental organizations to eliminate child sex tourism;

"4. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General, in conjunction with countries contributing troops to United Nations peacekeeping missions, to ensure the provision of training to peacekeepers and civilian and military advisers on sexual abuse and exploitation, including trafficking, and to ensure that allegations of sexual abuse and exploitation, including trafficking, are swiftly investigated and dealt with."

86. At the 20th meeting, on 11 March, the Commission had before it a revised draft resolution, submitted by the United States of America, entitled "Eliminating demand for trafficked women and girls for all forms of exploitation" (E/CN.3/2005/L.3/Rev.1).

87. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States further orally revised the text as follows:

(a) In the third preambular paragraph, the words "the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and Convention No. 29 and No. 182 of the International Labour Organization," were inserted at the end of the paragraph;

(b) A new paragraph was inserted after the third preambular paragraph to read as follows:

"*Emphasizing* that the fight against trafficking in women and girls for all forms of exploitation requires a comprehensive approach that addresses all factors and root causes that foster demand and make women and girls vulnerable to trafficking, as well as the protection and rehabilitation of victims;"

(c) A new paragraph was inserted after the fifth preambular paragraph as follows:

"*Also concerned* that multiple forms of discrimination and conditions of disadvantage contribute to the vulnerability of women and girls to trafficking, and that indigenous, refugee, internally displaced and migrant women and girls may be particularly at risk;"

(d) In the eighth preambular paragraph, the words "trafficked women and girls" were inserted before the words "for all forms of exploitation"; the words "in particular" were replaced by the word "including"; the word "commercial" was deleted; and the words "in women and girls" at the end of the paragraph were deleted;

(e) The ninth preambular paragraph, which had read:

> "*Deeply concerned* over all activities that fuel the demand for victims of trafficking, in particular activities by armed forces, peacekeepers and military and civilian advisers in other countries,"

was deleted;

(f) In operative paragraph 1, a new subparagraph (a) was inserted as follows:

> "Take all appropriate measures to eliminate demand for trafficked women and girls for all forms of exploitation;"

(g) In operative paragraph 1, subparagraph (c), the word "discourage" was replaced by the word "eliminate" and the words "of persons" at the end of the paragraph were deleted;

(h) In operative paragraph 2, subparagraph (a), the words "and a violation of the human rights of trafficked persons" were deleted;

(i) In operative paragraph 2, subparagraph (b), the words "trafficking in women and girls, including its links to" were inserted before the words "commercial sexual exploitation"; the words "including its links to trafficking in persons" were deleted; and the words "and of the rights and needs of trafficked women and girls" were inserted at the end of the paragraph;

(j) After operative paragraph 2, a new operative paragraph 3 was inserted to read as follows:

> "*Encourages* Governments to intensify collaboration with non-governmental organizations in order to develop and implement comprehensive programmes, including programmes to provide shelter and helplines to victims or potential victims of trafficking and effective counselling and training for the social and economic reintegration of the victims into society";

(k) Operative paragraph 4, which had read:

> "*Calls upon* Governments to ensure the provision of training on commercial sexual exploitation and abuse, including trafficking, to armed forces, peacekeepers, and military and civilian advisers to be stationed in other countries, including for United Nations peacekeeping missions, and to ensure that allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, including trafficking, will be swiftly investigated and dealt with to the fullest extent"

was deleted.

88. Also at the 20th meeting, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, the Central African Republic, China, Colombia, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Gabon, Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Iceland, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Madagascar, Mali, the Marshall Islands, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, the Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Samoa, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, South Africa, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uzbekistan joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

89. The Commission was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

90. Also at the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. D, resolution 49/2).

91. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the observers for Nepal and Singapore.

92. After the adoption of the resolution, statements were made by the representatives of India, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, China, Algeria and Thailand, as well as by the observers for Costa Rica and Paraguay (on behalf of MERCOSUR and its associated countries).

Advisability of the appointment of a special rapporteur on laws that discriminate against women

93. At the 13th meeting, on 8 March, the observer for Rwanda,[2] also on behalf of the observer for the Philippines, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Special rapporteur on laws that discriminate against women" (E/CN.6/2005/L.4), which read as follows:

> "*The Commission on the Status of Women*,
>
> "*Recalling* the undertaking made in the Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, to ensure equality and non-discrimination under the law and in practice and the specific undertaking made in paragraph 232 (d) to revoke any remaining laws that discriminate on the basis of sex and remove gender bias in the administration of justice,
>
> "*Noting* the concern expressed in the further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted at the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, that legislative and regulatory gaps, as well as lack of implementation and enforcement of legislation and regulations, perpetuate de jure as well as de facto inequality and discrimination, and in a few cases, new laws discriminating against women have been introduced and the undertaking made therein to review domestic legislation with a view to striving to remove discriminatory provisions as soon as possible, preferably by 2005,
>
> "*Welcoming* the progress that has been made in the implementation of this undertaking by the target date of 2005 while noting the need for further progress,
>
> "1. *Urges* Governments to intensify their efforts to revoke any remaining laws that discriminate on the basis of sex and to remove gender bias in the administration of justice, in accordance with the Beijing Platform for Action through the adoption of all appropriate means and measures at the national, regional and international levels;
>
> "2. *Decides* to consider at its fiftieth session the advisability of the appointment of a special rapporteur on laws that discriminate against women."

94. At the 20th meeting, on 11 March, the representative of Rwanda orally revised the text as follows:

(a) The title, which had read "Special rapporteur on laws that discriminate against women" was replaced with the title "Advisability of the appointment of a special rapporteur on laws that discriminate against women";

(b) In the first preambular paragraph, in the first line, the word "undertaking" was replaced with the word "commitment" and the words "Beijing Declaration and the" were inserted before the words "Platform for Action";

(c) In the second preambular paragraph, in the last line, the word "undertaking" was replaced with the word "commitment";

(d) The third preambular paragraph was deleted;

(e) Operative paragraph 1 was deleted;

(f) In operative paragraph 2, and the end of the paragraph, the following phrase was inserted, "bearing in mind the existing mechanisms with a view to avoid duplication, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fiftieth session on the implications of the creation of a position of special rapporteur on laws that discriminate against women and to include in his report the views of the Member States and relevant United Nations bodies, including the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights".

95. At the same meeting, the Commission was advised that the revised draft resolution contained no programme implications.

96. The representative of the United States proposed an amendment to operative paragraph 2, by which the words "and to include in his report the views of the Member States and relevant United Nations bodies, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights" would be deleted, after which statements were made by the representative of Cuba and by the observer for Rwanda.

97. The amendment was not carried by a roll-call vote of 36 to 1, with 7 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:
United States of America.

Against:
Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bolivia, Botswana, Canada, China, Congo, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mauritius, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, South Africa, Sudan, Suriname, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania.

Abstentions:
Algeria, Burkina Faso, El Salvador, Kazakhstan, Thailand, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates.

98. A statement was made by the representative of Burkina Faso regarding its vote.

99. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. D, resolution 49/3).

100. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of the United States.

Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all national policies and programmes

101. At the 13th meeting, on 8 March, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, also on behalf of Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all national policies and programmes" (E/CN.6/2005/L.5). Subsequently, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, the Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Guatemala, Guyana, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Mali, Malawi, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Namibia, New Zealand, the Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Rwanda, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Yemen and Zambia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution. The draft resolution read as follows:

> "*The Commission on the Status of Women*,
>
> "*Deeply convinced* that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century' are important contributions to the advancement of women worldwide in the achievement of gender equality and must be translated into effective action by all States, the United Nations system and other organizations concerned,
>
> "*Recognizing* that enhancing women's opportunities, potential and activities requires a dual focus, namely, programmes aimed at meeting the basic as well as the specific needs of women for capacity-building, organizational development and empowerment, together with gender mainstreaming in all programme formulation and implementation activities,
>
> "*Reaffirming* that gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for promoting gender equality, which requires making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated,

"*Reaffirming also* that gender mainstreaming constitutes a critical strategy in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,

"*Recalling* its agreed conclusions 1999/2 on institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women,

"*Welcoming* the United Nations Millennium Declaration and its call for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women,

"1. *Reiterates* that in order to ensure the effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and enhance the work for the advancement of women at the national, subregional/regional and international levels, Governments, the United Nations system and all other relevant organizations should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective, inter alia, in the monitoring and evaluation of all policies and programmes;

"2. *Stresses* that political will and commitment at all levels are crucial to ensure the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the adoption and implementation of comprehensive and action-oriented policies in all areas;

"3. *Welcomes*:

"(a) The wide acknowledgement of gender mainstreaming, the goal of which is to incorporate a gender perspective in all legislation, policies, programmes and projects, as a strategy to enhance the impact of policies to promote gender equality;

"(b) The institution or strengthening of national machineries for the advancement of women, the recognition of these machineries as the institutional base, acting as catalysts for the promotion of gender equality, gender mainstreaming and monitoring of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and the progress achieved in terms of the visibility, status, outreach and coordination of the activities of these machineries;

"(c) The contribution of these machineries, despite their limited financial resources, to the development of human resources in the field of gender studies and to the growing efforts for the generation and dissemination of data disaggregated by sex and age and gender-sensitive research and documentation;

"4. *Calls upon* Member States to:

"(a) Ensure that gender mainstreaming is fully understood, institutionalized and implemented, and that these efforts should include promoting awareness and understanding of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

"(b) Develop and use frameworks, guidelines and other practical tools and indicators to accelerate gender mainstreaming, including gender-based research, analytical tools and methodologies, training, case studies, statistics and information;

"(c) Develop effective accountability mechanisms, in particular through the introduction of gender perspectives and gender equality indicators in budgetary processes at all levels of government and, if necessary, to provide adequate guidelines and expertise to support this process;

"(d) Promote the collection, collation, dissemination and use of sex disaggregated statistics and data and gender-sensitive indicators to enable the construction of appropriate tools for planning and programming purposes and the development of effective monitoring systems;

"(e) Provide assistance, as appropriate, to agencies, including those outside government, in formulating the gender-sensitive performance indicators necessary to measure and review progress made in the field of gender equality, including the advancement of women and gender mainstreaming;

"(f) Support the provision of training on gender mainstreaming to all governmental bodies, at all levels, to ensure understanding of their roles and responsibilities;

"(g) Involve parliaments and, wherever appropriate, the judiciary in monitoring progress in gender mainstreaming and strengthening gender-related aspects of all government reporting, and ensure transparency through open and participatory dialogue and the promotion of balanced participation of women and men in all areas and at all levels of decision-making;

"(h) Structure appropriately the functions of national machineries at all levels in order to ensure effectiveness in gender mainstreaming and strengthen their capacity to undertake gender analysis and develop the methodologies and tools needed to play a catalytic role in gender mainstreaming across all sectors of government in collaboration with line ministries;

"(i) Provide national machineries with the necessary human and financial resources, including through exploring innovative funding schemes, so that gender mainstreaming is integrated into all policies, programmes and projects;

"(j) Establish or reinforce existing institutional mechanisms at all levels to work with national machineries to strengthen societal support for gender equality, in cooperation with civil society, particularly women's non-governmental organizations;

"5. *Emphasizes* that while the primary responsibility for gender mainstreaming rests with Governments, partnership with a wide range of political and social bodies at national, regional and international levels is also required for effective outcomes;

"6. *Calls upon* the international community, including the United Nations system, to support efforts to mainstream a gender perspective at a national level by:

"(a) Supporting national Governments in their efforts to strengthen national mechanisms through official development assistance and other appropriate assistance;

> "(b) Encouraging multilateral, bilateral, donor and development agencies to include in their programmes of assistance, activities that strengthen national machineries;
>
> "(c) Providing technical cooperation and other forms of assistance to the developing countries, in particular in Africa and the least developed countries, in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action;
>
> "7. *Emphasizes* that the promotion of gender equality and of women's empowerment and participation, together with the mainstreaming of a gender perspective, are among the essential elements for advancing the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, with a view, in particular, to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and the outcomes of United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions;
>
> "8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fiftieth session on progress in the use of statistical gender analysis and mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of programmes and policies in order to address the inequality between men and women in the sharing of power and decision-making at all levels."

102. At the 19th meeting, on 11 March, the Committee had before it revised draft resolution E/CN.6/2005/L.5/Rev.1, sponsored by the sponsors of draft resolution E/CN.6/2005/L.5. The observer for Bangladesh orally revised the text as follows:

(a) In the title, the word "all" was inserted before the word "national";

(b) The tenth preambular paragraph, which read,

> "*Reaffirming* the United Nations Millennium Declaration and its call for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women,"

was moved to the place of the fifth preambular paragraph;

(c) In the sixth preambular paragraph, the words "and additional" were deleted;

(d) In operative paragraph 6, a new subparagraph (a) was inserted as follows:

> "Involve women in decision-making at all levels in order to ensure women's concerns and experiences are fully reflected in policy and programme design and implementation;"

(e) Also in operative paragraph 6, a new subparagraph (d) was inserted as follows:

> "Mainstream a gender perspective into key macroeconomic and social development policies and national development programmes;"

(f) In former subparagraph 6 (e), the word "collation" was replaced by the word "compilation", in the first line; in the third line, the words "including through partnership with research institutions and statistical offices" were deleted; and the words at the end of the paragraph "and programming purposes and the development of effective monitoring systems" were replaced by the words "programming and monitoring at different levels";

(g) In old subparagraph 6 (g), the words "and promote awareness and information campaigns and capacity-building, including gender training" were inserted after the words "gender mainstreaming"; in the third line, the word "all" before the word "governmental" was deleted; and the words "the public sector and the judiciary so as" were inserted after the words "at all levels";

(h) Old subparagraphs 6 (h) and (i) were deleted;

(i) In subparagraph 6 (k), the words "and partnership" were inserted after the word "collaboration" and the words "and research" were inserted before the word "institutions";

(j) In subparagraph 6 (m), the words "and evaluation of national gender mainstreaming initiatives" were deleted and the words "implementation and effectiveness of national gender equality initiatives at local, regional and national levels" were inserted before the words "including through open and participatory dialogue";

(k) In subparagraph (n), the words "and strengthen their capacity to undertake gender analysis and develop the methodologies and tools needed to play a catalytic role in promoting women's empowerment and gender equality and in gender mainstreaming, across all sectors of government, in collaboration with line ministries" were deleted;

(l) In subparagraph 6 (o), the words "and adequate" were inserted before the words "human and financial resources";

(m) In operative paragraph 7, the words "at the local, national, regional and international" were deleted and replaced with the words "at all";

(n) In operative paragraph 8, subparagraph (d), the words "sharing information" were replaced with the words "Facilitating the sharing of information"; and the words "inter alia," were inserted after the word "available";

(o) In operative paragraph 9, the words "participation, together with the mainstreaming of a gender perspective" were deleted and the words "the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly" were inserted before the words "are among the essential elements"; the words "for advancing the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, with a view, in particular" were deleted; and the words "and the outcomes of United Nations summits, conference and special sessions", were deleted and replaced by the words "and stresses the need to ensure the integration of a gender perspective both in the preparations for and at the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the review of the Millennium Declaration";

(p) In operative paragraph 10, the words "bearing in mind its discussions on equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels" before the words "on progress in mainstreaming" were deleted; and the words "programmes and policies that address the inequality between men and women in the sharing of power and decision-making at all levels" were replaced with the words "national policies and programmes, bearing in mind its two thematic issues as outlined in its multi-year programme of work".

103. At the same meeting, the Commission was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

104. Also at the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. D, resolution 49/4).

Integrating a gender perspective in post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation efforts, including in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster

105. At the 13th meeting, on 8 March, the observer for the Philippines,[2] also on behalf of Chile, Sri Lanka and Tuvalu, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Integrating a gender perspective in post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation efforts, particularly in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster" (E/CN.6/2005/L.6). Subsequently, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, the Central African Republic, China, Colombia, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Gabon, Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Iceland, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Madagascar, Mali, the Marshall Islands, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, the Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Samoa, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, South Africa, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uzbekistan joined in sponsoring the draft resolution. The draft resolution read as follows:

> "*The Commission on the Status of Women*,
>
> "*Recalling* General Assembly resolutions 59/212 of 20 December 2004, 59/231 of 22 December 2004, 59/232 of 22 December 2004 and 59/279 of 28 January 2005,
>
> "*Taking into account* the tsunami disaster that struck the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia regions on 26 December 2004, resulting in thousands of deaths and millions of homeless persons,
>
> "*Recognizing* that women and children have been the most affected by the tsunami disaster,
>
> "*Noting* that women have taken on the role of caring for survivors and maintaining family and community,
>
> "*Concerned* that violence, including sexual abuse and sexual and other gender-based violence, continues to be deliberately directed against women and girls, in many emergency situations, including in the aftermath of the tsunami disaster,
>
> "*Reaffirming* the conviction contained in the Beijing Declaration to design, implement and monitor, with the full participation of women, effective, efficient and mutually reinforcing gender-sensitive policies and programmes at all levels that will foster the empowerment and advancement of women,
>
> "*Recalling* the commitments made concerning women and girls affected by natural disasters, displacement and other such emergencies in the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,

"*Recalling also* Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/4 of 7 July 2004 on the review of Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system,

"*Deeply concerned* that existing post-disaster relief, recovery and rehabilitation efforts, including in the recent tsunami disaster, do not address the gender dimensions of the situation,

"1. *Urges* Governments, United Nations entities and international humanitarian relief organizations to integrate a gender perspective as well as engage women in the design and implementation of all phases of disaster management, particularly in the post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation stage;

"2. *Strongly calls upon* Governments and other relevant bodies to attend promptly to the basic necessities, such as food, clean water and shelter, as well as health care and psychosocial support, taking into account the particular needs of women and girls;

"3. *Underlines* the need to address the issues of livelihood, security, land tenure and housing since they pose major challenges to women, particularly widows, single-headed households and women who have lost all family members;

"4. *Also underlines* the need to give attention to the needs of marginalized groups of women, including girls, older women and women with disabilities;

"5. *Stresses* the need to utilize the expertise, knowledge and networks of women to promote institutional change towards gender equality and social justice in disaster situations, including local expertise, experience and knowledge for capacity-building in disaster situations;

"6. *Strongly urges* Governments, United Nations entities and other relevant bodies to provide the necessary measures to protect women and girls from sexual abuse and other forms of violence;

"7. *Calls upon* Governments to involve women in decision-making in disaster situations, including in community-level welfare centres for the displaced, to ensure that human rights abuses are minimized;

"8. *Calls upon* all those concerned with relief, rehabilitation and recovery of victims to include gender training in their needs assessment and community and family-based interventions;

"9. *Encourages* the affected States, relevant bodies of the United Nations system, donor countries, regional and international financial institutions and civil society involved in the rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts to implement and monitor community-based participatory approaches so that women can take an active and equal role in all stages and at all levels of camp management, recovery planning and reconstruction;

"10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that in coordinating the relief and recovery processes, the United Nations system, regional organizations, donor countries and affected States contribute to sensitizing further all reconstruction programmes to the special needs of women and girls;

> "11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to include in his reports to the General Assembly the gender dimensions of relief, rehabilitation and recovery efforts coordinated by the United Nations in situations of natural disasters, including the recent tsunami disaster."

106. At the 19th meeting, on 11 March, the Commission had before it a revised text of the draft resolution (E/CN.6/2005/L.6/Rev.1). The observer for the Philippines orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) In the title, the word "particularly" was replaced with the word "including";

(b) In the first preambular paragraph, the listing of General Assembly resolutions was rearranged chronologically as follows:

> "*Recalling* General Assembly resolutions 46/182 of 19 December 1991, 59/212 of 20 December 2004, 59/231 of 22 December 2004, 59/232 of 22 December 2004 and 59/279 of 19 January 2005,"

(c) In the fourth preambular paragraph, the word "displacement" was deleted;

(d) In the sixth preambular paragraph, the phrase "particularly in developing countries," was inserted after the words "increasing impact,"; and in the last line, the words "millions of" were replaced with the words "over a million";

(e) The tenth preambular paragraph, which had read:

> "*Also concerned* that women and girls in many disaster situations, including in the aftermath of the tsunami disaster, continue to be victims of violence, including sexual abuse and sexual and other gender-based violence,"

was deleted;

(f) In operative paragraph 3, the word "sanitation," was inserted before the word "shelter";

(g) In operative paragraph 4, the words "anti-poverty" were replaced with the words "poverty reduction";

(h) Operative paragraph 5 was replaced with a new paragraph, which read as follows:

> "*Underlines* the need for the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly in order to address the major challenges to women and girls in natural disasters and in their aftermath;"

(i) In operative paragraph 8, the words "and support" were inserted after the words "appropriate care";

(j) In operative paragraph 11, the words "and girls" were inserted after the words "human rights by women";

(k) In operative paragraph 12, the words "people-centred and" were inserted before the words "community-based"; and the words "so that women can take an active and equal role in all stages and at all levels, and" were replaced with the words "to ensure women's full and equal participation, and also encourages Governments";

(l) Operative paragraph 14, which had read:

> "*Requests* Governments of affected countries, the United Nations system, regional organizations and donor countries to recognize the vulnerabilities and capacities of women and girls and to address these through a gender-responsive allocation of resources in their relief, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts;"

was remodified to read as follows:

> "*Encourages* Governments, the United Nations system, regional organizations and invites donor countries to address the vulnerabilities and capacities of women and girls through gender-responsive programming and allocation of resources in their post-disaster relief, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in coordination with the Governments of affected countries;"

107. At the same meeting, the Commission was advised that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

108. At the same meeting, the representative of Indonesia proposed an oral amendment to the eleventh preambular paragraph by inserting the words "by the affected countries and" before the words "the international community" and inserting the words "national as well as" before the words "international solidarity".

109. Following a statement by the observer for the Philippines, the Commission adopted the proposed amendment.

110. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution, as further orally revised and amended (see chap. I, sect. D, resolution 49/5).

111. After the adoption of the resolution, a statement was made by the representative of the United States.

112. Statements were also made by the observers for Australia and Slovenia.

Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

113. At the 13th meeting, on 8 March, the observer for Jamaica, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women" (E/CN.6/2005/L.7).

114. At the 19th meeting, on 11 March, the observer for Jamaica, orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) In the sixth preambular paragraph, the word "attacks" was replaced by the words "military operations";

(b) The seventh preambular paragraph, which had read:

> "*Recalling* the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice concerning Israel's unlawful construction of a wall, and recalling in particular the Court's conclusion regarding the applicability of international humanitarian law and human rights law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,"

was deleted;

(c) After the seventh preambular paragraph, two new preambular paragraphs were inserted as follows:

> "*Recalling* the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the 'Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory', and recalling also General Assembly resolution ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004;
>
> "*Recalling also* the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and affirming that these human rights instruments must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;".

115. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of Luxembourg.

116. The Commission was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

117. The Commission adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised, by a recorded vote of 38 to 1, with 2 abstentions (see chap. I, sect. B, draft resolution I). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Botswana, Burkina Faso, China, Congo, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Malaysia, Mauritius, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, South Africa, Sudan, Suriname, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania.

Against:

United States of America.

Abstaining:

Canada, Iceland.

118. Statements in explanation of vote before the vote were made by the representatives of Canada and the United States.

119. A statement in explanation of vote after the vote was made by the representative of Japan.

120. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the observer for Israel; after the vote, statements were made by the representative of the Russian Federation, as well as by the observer for the Niger.

Strengthening of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

121. At the 13th meeting, on 8 March, the observer for Jamaica,[2] on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, and Mexico, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Strengthening of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women"

(E/CN.6/2005/L.8). Côte d'Ivoire, Greece, Italy, Nicaragua and Uzbekistan subsequently joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

122. At the 19th meeting, on 11 March, the observer for Jamaica made a statement.

123. At the same meeting, the Commission was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

124. Also at the 19th meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. D, draft resolution 49/6).

125. After the adoption of the resolution, a statement was made by the representative of the Dominican Republic.

126. At the same meeting, the observer for Spain also made a statement.

Economic advancement for women

127. At its 13th meeting, on 8 March, the representative of the United States of America introduced a draft resolution entitled "Economic advancement for women" (E/CN.6/2005/L.9), which read as follows:

> "*The Commission on the Status of Women*,
>
> "*Recalling* General Assembly resolutions 58/142 of 22 December 2003 on women and political participation, 58/206 of 23 December 2003 on women in development, and 59/246 of 22 December 2004, welcoming 2005 the International Year of Microcredit,
>
> "*Recalling also* its agreed conclusions on eradicating poverty, including through the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle, in a globalizing world, and its agreed conclusions on the participation and access of women to the media and information and communication technologies, and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women,
>
> "*Welcoming* the report of the United Nations Commission on the Private Sector and Development entitled 'Unleashing entrepreneurship: making business work for the poor', which, inter alia, stressed the important role of women entrepreneurs in achieving economic growth in developing countries,
>
> "*Welcoming also* the June 2004 action plan of the Group of Eight entitled 'Applying the power of entrepreneurship to the eradication of poverty',
>
> "*Noting* that hundreds of millions of women worldwide live in poverty and that the majority of poor women throughout the world live in rural areas, where their livelihoods are dependent on subsistence and smallholder agriculture,
>
> "*Emphasizing* that poverty can be reduced when poor women and men are provided education, equal opportunity, economic freedom, the benefits of good governance and the rule of law,
>
> "*Recognizing* that improving women's economic status also improves the economic status of their families and their communities,

"*Acknowledging* that full incorporation of women into the political, social and economic decision-making in their societies can enhance development policies,

"*Expressing its concern* that women are often under-represented in official policy-making and lack equal access to education, financial services, property and inheritance rights and other legal protections and that discrimination against women poses a major obstacle to their economic advancement,

"*Recognizing* that information and communications technology can be a vital tool for training women in entrepreneurial skills, accessing financial services and market information and providing small businesses with access to marketing opportunities,

"*Recognizing* that respect for the rule of law, political and civil liberties, human rights, democracy, the promotion of economic freedom and non-discrimination are necessary elements to promote sustainable economic growth,

"1. *Calls upon* Member States to:

"(a) Eliminate discrimination, provide equal access, actively encourage participation by women and girls in education at all levels and develop programmes that provide training to women in business skills;

"(b) Undertake legislative and administrative reforms to create a strong enabling environment for women entrepreneurs, which includes a sound macroeconomic framework; accountable systems for managing public resources; and an attractive investment climate, competitive markets, enforceable contracts, the absence of corruption, regulatory policies that engender public confidence in the market, clear property and inheritance rights and reduced barriers to international trade;

"(c) Promote the collection, dissemination, and analysis of statistics that are disaggregated by gender to facilitate better monitoring of the situation of women, including education, employment opportunity, income, ownership and access to finance;

"(d) Eliminate discrimination in the work place, providing equal opportunity for the hiring and advancement of women;

"(e) Facilitate further development of the financial sector to increase women's access to savings, lending, and other financial services, through incentives and development of intermediaries that serve the needs of women entrepreneurs in both rural and urban areas, and to include women in their leadership, planning, and decision-making;

"(f) Encourage business organizations, non-governmental organizations, professional associations, cooperatives, revolving loan funds, credit unions, grass-roots organizations, women's self-help groups and other groups to develop and provide services to women entrepreneurs;

"(g) Enhance rural women's income-generating potential, noting the importance of the agricultural sector in the poorest countries and the importance of greater security of land tenure and property ownership for resource mobilization and environmental stewardship;

> "(h) Promote government and civil society programmes that can enhance the economic opportunity of vulnerable women, such as widows, women with disabilities, elderly women, women belonging to racial and ethnic minorities, refugees, and internally displaced persons and encourage the formation of institutions and associations that develop and provide services to women entrepreneurs, particularly in rural areas;
>
> "(i) Promote equal access for women to information and communication technology-based economic activities, such as small business and home-based employment, and to information systems and improved technologies, and further develop tele-centres, community access points and business incubators;
>
> "2. *Encourages* all relevant United Nations funds, programmes and the specialized agencies, in accordance with their respective mandates, to assist Governments in strengthening their capacity to reform laws, practices and institutions in order to promote women's entrepreneurship;
>
> "3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of these measures to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fiftieth session."

128. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic.

129. At the 20th meeting, on 11 March, the representative of the United States of America introduced a revised text of the draft resolution, which was contained in an informal paper in English only, which read as follows:

> "*The Commission on the Status of Women*,
>
> "*Reaffirming* the goals, objectives, and commitments of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century',
>
> "*Recalling* the goals and commitments of all other relevant major United Nations conferences and summits,
>
> "*Recalling also* the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,
>
> "*Recalling further* General Assembly resolutions 58/142 of 22 December 2003 on women and political participation, 58/206 of 11 February 2004 on women in development, and 59/246 of 22 November 2004 on the role of microcredit and microfinance in the eradication of poverty,
>
> "*Recalling* its agreed conclusions on eradicating poverty, including through the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle, in a globalizing world, and its agreed conclusions on the participation and access of women to the media, and information and communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women,
>
> "*Noting* the report of the Commission on the Private Sector and Development, entitled '*Unleashing Entrepreneurship: Making Business Work for the Poor*',

"*Noting also* the report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization entitled '*A Fair Globalization: Creating Opportunities for All*',

"*Noting further* that hundreds of millions of women and girls, worldwide, live in poverty and that the majority of these live in rural areas where their livelihoods are dependent on subsistence and small-holder agriculture and employment in the informal sector, including forest and common property resources,

"*Emphasizing* that the empowerment of women is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty and that the implementation of special measures aimed at empowering women can help to achieve this,

"*Recognizing* that improving women's economic status also improves the economic status of their families and their communities, and thereby creates a multiplier effect for economic growth,

"*Recognizing also* that women should have equal opportunities to achieve economic independence, as discrimination against women and lack of equal access to education, training, financial services, employment and entrepreneurial opportunities and other economic resources, property and inheritance rights, and other legal protections, pose a major obstacle to sustainable economic growth, sustainable development and the sustainable economic advancement of women,

"*Emphasizing* that full representation and full and equal participation of women in political, social, and economic decision-making in their societies enhances socio-economic development policies,

"*Recognizing* that diligent and transparent application of the rule of law at the national, regional, and international levels, access to justice, democracy, the promotion of women's economic autonomy, and of non-discrimination policies are necessary elements to promote sustainable economic growth and sustainable development,

"*Reaffirming* that the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms is essential for the empowerment of women and girls,

"*Aware* that while globalization and liberalization processes have created employment opportunities for women in many countries, they have also made women more vulnerable to problems caused by increased economic volatility,

"*Recognizing* that women's social and economic marginalization, and unequal rights can hamper their ability to fully and effectively participate in the economic life of their communities and societies and that women may need special support and legal empowerment to address the challenges, and take full advantage of the opportunities of market liberalization,

"*Highlighting* that enhanced trade opportunities and market access for developing countries, including through trade liberalization, will improve the economic condition of those societies, including for women, which is of particular importance in rural communities, "*Recognizing* that the difficult socio-economic conditions that exist in many developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, are linked to the feminization of poverty,

"*Recognizing and expressing concern* that, the gender division of labour, especially the persistent unequal sharing of remunerated and unremunerated labour between women and men, and lack of support services continues to limit women's ability to benefit from economic opportunities, to gain economic autonomy, to access social security systems, and to build economic stability, including to withstand adverse economic environments and to preserve livelihoods, assets and revenue in times of crisis,

"*Acknowledging* that people living in poverty, particularly women, need better access to financial services, including savings, insurance, remittance transfers, payment services, and credit, and that women have the proven ability to be diligent savers, prudent borrowers and investors and successful entrepreneurs,

"*Recognizing* that information and communications technology can be a vital tool for training and empowering women,

"*Recognizing also* that access to basic affordable health care, preventative health information and the highest standard of health care, including sexual and reproductive health, is critical to women's economic advancement and that lack of economic empowerment and independence increases women's vulnerability to a range of negative health consequences, including the risk of contracting HIV/AIDS,

"*Noting with concern* that lack of economic empowerment increases women's vulnerability to all forms of violence,

"*Recognizing* with appreciation all regional and national efforts in mainstreaming a gender perspective and empowerment of women towards the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, including the increasing efforts of the African countries in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

"1. *Calls* on Member States to strengthen efforts to implement national and international commitments that will advance women's equality;

"2. *Also calls* on Member States to promote gender mainstreaming in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation phases of all economic and social policies;

"3. *Further calls* on Member States to improve, promote and build capacity for the collection, dissemination and analysis of gender-sensitive statistical indicators, and reliable statistics that are disaggregated by sex as well as other relevant factors in order to facilitate better policy development, monitoring, and evaluation of the economic and social advancement of women;

"4. *Urges* Member States to eliminate discrimination, ensure equal rights and access, and actively enable participation by women and girls in education and training at all levels including by developing programmes with the aim of equipping women with business, trade, information and communications technology, and entrepreneurship skills;

"5. *Calls* on Member States to undertake legislative, administrative and financial measures to create a strong enabling environment for all women entrepreneurs and women participating in the labour market, which includes a sound macroeconomic framework; accountable systems for managing public resources; a business climate that attracts investment and promotes movement from the informal to the formal sector through, inter alia, competitive markets, enforceable contracts, the absence of corruption, regulatory policies that promote public confidence in the market, and reducing barriers to international trade within an appropriate time frame;

"6. *Urges* Member States to design and revise laws to ensure that women are accorded full and equal rights to own land and other property, including through inheritance, and to undertake administrative reforms and other necessary measures to give women the right to credit, capital, appropriate technologies, and access to markets and information;

"7. *Calls* on Member States to facilitate further development of the financial sector to increase women's access to and control over savings, credit, and other financial services, through incentives and development of intermediaries that serve the needs of women entrepreneurs on an equal opportunity basis in both rural and urban areas, and to fully include women in management, planning and decision-making processes;

"8. *Also calls* on Member States to adopt policies and consider allocating resources, as appropriate, that support business and professional organizations, public agencies, non-governmental organizations, cooperatives, revolving loan funds, such as microfinance funds, credit unions and other women's grass-roots and self-help groups, in order to meet the needs of women entrepreneurs in rural and urban areas;

"9. *Further calls* on Member States to enhance access for women to information and communication technology-based economic activities in all sectors, such as small and medium-sized business and home-based employment, information systems, and improved technologies, and to further develop telecentres, community access points and business incubators;

"10. *Calls* on Member States to enhance rural women's income-generating potential, noting the importance of the agricultural sector, particularly in the developing countries, and the importance of greater security of land tenure and property ownership for resource mobilization and environmental management; and consider special temporary measures to empower women in the rural sector to meet the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities of agricultural market liberalization;

"11. *Urges* Member States to eliminate discrimination against women in labour markets, employment practices, and the workplace, providing equal access for women in occupational categories and sectors where they are underrepresented, and providing equal opportunities with respect to the right to organize and participate in labour unions and collective bargaining, employment conditions, career development opportunities, and equal pay for equal work or work of equal value, and take action to remove structural and legal barriers, as well as stereotypical attitudes to gender in work and training; and to eliminate pay differences based on gender through a multifaceted approach addressing underlying factors including sectoral and occupational segregation, education and training, job classification, and payment systems;

"12. *Calls* on Member States to respect, promote and realize the principles contained in the International Labour Organization Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its follow-up and to consider ratification and full implementation of the conventions of the International Labour Organization that are particularly relevant to ensuring women's rights at work;

"13. *Also calls* on Member States to adopt temporary special measures where needed, aimed at accelerating equality of opportunity between men and women in all economic and employment sectors and occupational categories and recognize the need for special supports for women to take advantage of the opportunities afforded by international trade and, where necessary, introduce preventive policy measures to avoid further marginalization of women;

"14. *Further calls* on Member States to recognize, develop and promote policies, including workplace policies and other supports such as maternity and parental benefits and leave, childcare, and care for other dependants, that facilitate the reconciliation of employment and family responsibilities that recognize the importance of the value of non-market contributions that individuals and families make to society and the economy, ensuring the rights for women and men to decide freely and responsibly on the number, timing, and spacing of their children; encouraging men to share equally with women household, childcare and other care-giving responsibilities, and also ensuring that women have equal rights to social security and other entitlements;

"15. *Calls* on Member States and international organizations to promote policies and programmes that enhance economic and networking opportunities, develop and provide support services to specific groups of women who are disadvantaged or in a position of vulnerability;

"16. *Also calls* on Member States to recognize the significant contribution of migrant women to the economic development of both their country of origin and that of destination, to enhance, in accordance with national legislation, their employment opportunities, taking into account their skills, and to establish practices to reduce transfer costs of migrant workers' remittances;

"17. *Encourages* all relevant United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, in accordance with their respective mandates, to assist Governments at their request, in strengthening their capacity to promote and support the economic advancement of women through, inter alia, employment and entrepreneurship practices and programmes that affirm and empower women;

"18. *Urges* donors, and invites international financial institutions and regional development banks, within their respective mandates, to review and implement policies that support national efforts to increase resources to women, in particular in rural and remote areas;

> "19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fiftieth session."

130. Also at the 20th meeting, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Madagascar, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, the Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste and Togo joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution.

131. At the same meeting, the Commission was advised that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

132. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Cuba and South Africa, as well as by the observer for Niger.

133. At the 20th meeting, the representative of Cuba proposed an amendment to the fifteenth preambular paragraph, by which the words "in particular in developing and least developed countries" were inserted after the words "for women in many countries", and to the sixteenth preambular paragraph, by which the words "opportunities of market liberalization" at the end of the paragraph were replaced with the words "opportunities of globalization and market liberalization".

134. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the amendments proposed by the representative of Cuba.

135. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the United States of America.

136. At the 20th meeting, the representative of South Africa proposed amendments to the 22nd preambular paragraph, whereby:

(a) The word "services" would be inserted after the words "affordable health care";

(b) The words "including sexual and reproductive health" would be deleted after the words "highest standard of health";

(c) The words "and that the neglect of women's reproductive rights severely limits their opportunities in public and private life, including the opportunity for education, and economic and political empowerment" would be inserted after the words "including the risk of contracting HIV/AIDS".

137. The amendments were adopted by a roll-call vote of 24 to 2, with 18 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Argentina, Armenia, Belgium, Bolivia, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Canada, China, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Germany, Ghana, Guinea, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Mauritius, Netherlands, Peru, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Against:

Nicaragua, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Algeria, Azerbaijan, Congo, El Salvador, Gabon, Guatemala, Iceland, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Suriname, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania.

138. Statements before the vote were made by the representatives of the United States of America and El Salvador; a statement after the vote was made by the observer for Costa Rica.

139. Statements in explanation of vote before the vote were made by the representatives of Cuba, Malaysia and Nicaragua.

140. At the same meeting, the representative of South Africa proposed an amendment to operative paragraph 13 of the draft resolution, whereby the words "aimed at accelerating equality of opportunity" were deleted and replaced with the words "aimed at accelerating de facto equality".

141. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America and Cuba, after which the amendment was carried by a roll-call vote of 39 to 1, with 4 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bolivia, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Canada, China, Congo, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mauritius, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, South Africa, Sudan, Suriname, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania.

Against:

United States of America.

Abstaining:

El Salvador, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Nicaragua.

142. Also at the 20th meeting, the representative of Cuba proposed an amendment to operative paragraph 5, by which the words "which includes a sound macroeconomic framework; accountable systems for managing public resources; and a business climate that attracts investment and promotes movement from the informal to the formal sector through, inter alia, competitive markets, enforceable contracts, the absence of corruption, regulatory policies that promote public confidence in the market and reducing barriers to international trade within an appropriate time frame" would be deleted.

143. Following a statement by the representative of the United States of America, the amendment was not carried by a roll-call vote of 12 to 15, with 17 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Argentina, Bolivia, China, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Peru, South Africa, Sudan, Suriname, United Republic of Tanzania.

Against:

Belgium, Botswana, Canada, El Salvador, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Japan, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso, Congo, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Mauritius, Nigeria, Pakistan, Thailand, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates.

144. At the 20th meeting, the representative of Cuba proposed an amendment whereby a new operative paragraph would be inserted after operative paragraph 14, reading:

> "*Calls* on Member States to strengthen the incentive role of the public sector as employer in order to develop an environment that effectively affirms and empowers women;"

145. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the amendment.

146. Also at the same meeting, the Commission adopted the revised draft resolution, as orally amended (see chap. I, sect. D, resolution 49/8).

147. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, the representatives of the United States and Nicaragua withdrew their sponsorship of the draft resolution; after the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Cuba.

Indigenous women: beyond the ten-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

148. At the 16th meeting, on 9 March, the representative of Bolivia, on behalf of Argentina, Bolivia, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil,[2] Chile,[2] Costa Rica,[2] Cuba, Ecuador,[2] Guatemala, Paraguay,[2] Peru and Uruguay,[2] introduced a draft resolution, entitled "Indigenous women: beyond the ten-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action" (E/CN.6/2005/L.10). Subsequently, Belize, Canada, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Finland, France, Gabon, Greece, Honduras, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, the Philippines, South Africa, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

149. At the 20th meeting, on 11 March, the representative of Bolivia orally revised the text as follows:

(a) The first preambular, which had read:

> "*Convinced* of the commitments assumed in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Platform for Action, the Millennium Development Goals, the Durban Plan of Action and the General Assembly resolution on the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People to guarantee the economic, social and cultural well-being of women,"

was deleted and replaced with the following:

> "*Recalling* the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol, reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and the Platform of Action and the outcome documents of

> the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly on the five-year review of the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Cairo Declaration and the Programme of Action, the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, General Assembly resolution 59/174 of 20 December 2004 on the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, the relevant provisions of the Durban Declaration and the Programme of Action, and reaffirming the obligation of the States to promote and protect the full enjoyment of all human rights by women."

(b) At the end of the second preambular paragraph, the following words were inserted, "and that they represent a wide variety of cultures with different needs and concerns";

(c) The third and fourth preambular paragraphs and the operative paragraph, which had read:

> "*Reaffirming* the recommendations on indigenous women and girls adopted at the third session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, which emphasized equality, non-discrimination and the recognition of the value of the diversity of the cultural identities and forms of social organization of indigenous women,
>
> "*Recognizing* that profound gaps exist between indigenous women and other groups, which will affect the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,
>
> "*Recommends* that Governments, intergovernmental agencies, the private sector and civil society adopt measures that ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous women in the implementation, follow-up work and monitoring of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals."

were deleted;

(d) The following paragraphs were added to the end of the text:

> "*Welcoming* the fact that the theme of the third session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues focused on indigenous women, and taking note of the recommendations, which emphasize equality, non-discrimination, the diversity of cultural identities and social organization of indigenous women and girls,
>
> "*Recognizing* that profound inequalities exist between indigenous women and other groups and that addressing these inequalities through the full implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session is essential to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration,
>
> "1. *Calls upon* Governments to take into account the concerns of indigenous women throughout the implementation, follow-up work and monitoring of the Beijing Platform for Action and the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

> "2. *Calls upon* Governments, intergovernmental agencies, the private sector and civil society to take measures that ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous women in all aspects of society;
>
> "3. *Calls* for effective international cooperation to improve the situation of indigenous women and girls;
>
> "4. *Stresses* the importance of full consultation and collaboration of Governments with indigenous women, while planning and implementing objectives and activities for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People."

150. The Commission was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

151. Also at the 20th meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. D, draft resolution 49/7).

Situation of women and girls in Afghanistan

152. At the 16th meeting, on 9 March, the observer for Luxembourg,[2] on behalf of Austria, Belgium, Croatia,[2] Cyprus,[2] the Czech Republic,[2] Denmark,[2] Estonia,[2] Finland,[2] France,[2] Germany, Greece,[2] Hungary, Ireland,[2] Italy,[2] Latvia,[2] Lithuania,[2] Luxembourg,[2] Malta,[2] the Netherlands, Poland,[2] Portugal,[2] the Republic of Korea, Romania,[2] Serbia and Montenegro,[2] Slovakia,[2] Slovenia,[2] Spain,[2] Sweden,[2] Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Situation of women and girls in Afghanistan" (E/CN.6/2005/L.11). Subsequently, Andorra,[2] Bulgaria,[2] Canada,[2] Chile,[2] the Congo, Ecuador,[2] Guinea, Iceland, Japan, Liechtenstein,[2] Norway,[2] Palau,[2] Panama,[2] the Republic of Moldova,[2] Switzerland,[2] Tajikistan,[2] Thailand and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia[2] joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

153. At the 19th meeting, on 11 March, the observer for Luxembourg orally revised the text as follows:

(a) The words "including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women" were inserted at the end of the second preambular paragraph;

(b) In the fifth preambular paragraph, the word "human" was inserted in the second line before the word "rights";

(c) A new operative paragraph 1, subparagraph (g), was added as follows:

> "The efforts by the Afghan Government to develop a national action plan on gender equality;"

(d) In operative paragraph 3, subparagraph (d), the words "including through ensuring women's security" were added after the words "To ensure that women";

(e) In operative paragraph 3, subparagraph (f), the words "To ensure" were replaced by the words "To continue to strengthen";

(f) In operative paragraph 3, subparagraph (j), the words "the need" were replaced by the words "and strengthen measures";

(g) A new subparagraph (k) was inserted after subparagraph (j) as follows:

> "To release women prisoners held in the State detention centres for actions that do not constitute crimes under Afghan law and to provide them with adequate support for reintegration into their communities;"

(h) Operative paragraph 4, subparagraph (b), which had read:

> "To ensure the full and effective participation of Afghan women in all stages of humanitarian assistance, recovery, reconstruction and development, including planning, programme development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation;"

was deleted and replaced with the following:

> "To reflect the needs of women and girls and the importance of their role in the process of peacebuilding, reconstruction and development;"

(i) In operative paragraph 4, subparagraph (f), the words "and orphans" were inserted after the words "special needs of widows".

154. At the same meeting, the representative of India proposed an amendment to operative paragraph 5, after which statements were made by the representatives of Canada and Cuba and by the observer for Luxembourg.

155. At the same meeting, the Chairperson proposed an oral amendment to the text by orally revising operative paragraph 5, which had read:

> "*Calls upon* Member States to integrate a gender perspective when formulating and implementing programmes and policies in relation to Afghanistan"

as follows:

> "*Stressing* the need to integrate a gender perspective when formulating and implementing programmes and policies"

and relocating it as the seventh preambular paragraph.

156. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the amendment.

157. At the 20th meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised and amended (see chap. I, sect. B, draft resolution II).

Review of methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women

158. At its 13th meeting, on 8 March, the Chairperson read out an oral draft decision on the methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women.

159. At the same meeting, the Commission decided to postpone its discussion of its methods of work to its fiftieth session (see chap. I, sect. D, draft decision 49/101).

Proposed programme of work of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women for the biennium 2006-2007

160. At its 19th meeting, on 11 March, the Commission on the Status of Women decided to take note of the proposed programme of work, as contained in E/CN.6/2005/CRP.3 (see chap. I, sect. D, draft decision 49/102).

Documents considered by the Commission on the Status of Women under agenda item 3

161. At its resumed 20th meeting, on 22 March 2005, the Commission on the Status of Women decided to take note of a number of documents under agenda item 3 (see chap. I, sect. D, draft decision 49/103).

Chapter III

Communications concerning the status of women

1. The Commission considered agenda item 4 at its 1st and 16th (closed) meetings, on 28 February and 9 March 2005. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the confidential list of communications concerning the status of women (E/CN 6/2005/SW/Communications List No. 39) and the report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2005/CRP.5).

2. The Commission established a working group under agenda item 4, to consider communications concerning the status of women, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27. The following five members, nominated by their regional groups, were appointed to the working group:

> **Xiao** Mei Li (China)
> Farah **Adjalova** (Azerbaijan)
> Connie **Taracena** (Guatemala)
> Richard **Wood** (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
> Adekunbi Abibat **Sonaike** (Nigeria)

Action taken by the Commission

Report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women

3. At its 16th meeting (closed) on 9 March, the Commission considered the report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2005/CRP.5).

4. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Cuba, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

5. Also at the 16th meeting, the Commission took note of the report of the Working Group and agreed to include it in the report of the Commission. The report of the Working Group is as follows:

> 1. The Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women met in closed meetings before the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2002/235. The Working Group was guided in its deliberations by the mandate given to it by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 76 (V), as amended by the Council in its resolutions 304 I (XI), 1983/27 and 1992/19, and bearing in mind Commission on the Status of Women decision 48/103, entitled "Future work of the Working Group on Communications".
>
> 2. The Working Group considered the list of confidential communications and replies by Governments (E/CN.6/2004/SW/COMM.LIST/39 and Add.1). There was no list of non-confidential communications concerning the status of women since no such communications had been received by the Secretary-General.
>
> 3. The Working Group considered the 18 confidential communications received directly by the Division for the Advancement of Women (including

one communication with allegations of 40 separate instances of discriminatory legislation) and the three confidential communications received by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) concerning the status of women. The Working Group noted that one communication that had been selected from the 1503 procedure material covered the same case as a communication that had been submitted directly to the Division for the Advancement of Women. The Working Group noted that no confidential communications concerning the status of women had been received from other United Nations bodies or the specialized agencies.

4. The Working Group noted that there were replies from Governments to 5 of the 18 communications received directly by the Division for the Advancement of Women and replies to all three communications transmitted by OHCHR. Fourteen Governments replied to the single communication alleging discriminatory legislation in 40 separate States.

5. The Working Group recalls its mandate as defined in paragraph 4 of resolution 1983/27, which states that the Working Group should perform the following functions:

(a) Consideration of all communications, including the replies of Governments thereon, if any, with a view to bringing to the attention of the Commission those communications, including the replies of Governments, which appear to reveal a consistent pattern of reliably attested injustice and discriminatory practices against women;

(b) Preparation of a report, based on its analysis of the confidential and non-confidential communications, which will indicate the categories in which communications are most frequently submitted to the Commission.

6. The Working Group discerned the following categories in which communications were most frequently submitted to the Commission:

(a) Sexual violence, including rape, gang rape and sexual slavery perpetrated with impunity by Government officials, policemen and military personnel, as well as apparent systematic use of sexual violence against women for various reasons, including to control and suppress potential opposition;

(b) Abduction and rape of young women by private individuals, the failure to provide adequate protection and assistance to the victims of such violations and the failure to thoroughly investigate such cases and bring perpetrators to justice promptly;

(c) Other forms of violence against women, including crimes committed in the name of honour, dowry-related violence, forced marriage and marital rape, with a lack of due diligence by States adequately to investigate, prosecute and punish perpetrators;

(d) The threatening or pressuring of victims of violence in order to force retraction of complaints as well as the arbitrary prosecution and punishment of victims;

(e) Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment; violations of the rights to freedom of expression, freedom of association and freedom of movement as well as the right to participate in political and public life;

(f) Abuse of power, lack of due process, arbitrary detention, failure to grant a fair trial and inhumane treatment in detention;

(g) Differential application of punishments in law based on sex, including cruel, inhuman or degrading forms of punishment, without the right of appeal;

(h) Violations of the human rights of women belonging to minorities, including rape, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detention, lack of due diligence in investigating violations, prosecuting and punishing perpetrators, and impunity;

(i) General discrimination against women that leads to other violations of their human rights and stereotypical attitudes and unfavourable policies towards women, including non-remunerated women caregivers;

(j) Legislation which discriminates against women on the basis of:

(i) Marriage, personal status, voting rights, equal recognition before the law, equal status, citizenship and immigration;

(ii) Legitimization or condoning of violence against women, including in the areas of domestic violence, marital rape, crimes committed in the name of honour and cruel, inhuman and degrading forms of punishment;

(iii) Employment, especially in the armed forces;

(iv) The right to own and inherit property.

7. During its consideration of all communications, including the replies of Governments thereon, and of whether any of these appeared to reveal a consistent pattern of reliably attested injustice and discriminatory practices against women, the Working Group was concerned about:

(a) The climate of impunity in many cases where violence against women, especially sexual violence, is perpetrated by security forces and police and the apparent lack of commitment by some States to tackle impunity and thereby contribute to preventing violence against women;

(b) The failure by some States, in contravention of their human rights obligations, to exercise due diligence to prevent violence against women and adequately to investigate such crimes and punish perpetrators;

(c) The apparent large number of cases where women victims and/or their family members who make complaints are threatened in order to pressure them into retracting their statements or where victims, instead of receiving redress for crimes committed against them, are themselves arbitrarily punished or detained;

(d) The continued existence of legislation or practices in many areas either intended to or with the effect of discriminating against women, despite the international obligations and commitments of States and their constitutional provisions to outlaw such discrimination.

8. The Working Group appreciates the cooperation by those Governments that submitted replies to or observations on communications received. The Working Group considers this cooperation essential for it to discharge its duties effectively. From the replies received, the Working Group was encouraged to note that a number of Governments have taken or are in the process of taking measures to repeal discriminatory laws.

Chapter IV

Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

1. The Commission considered agenda item 5 at its 13th meeting, on 8 March 2005. It had before it a letter dated 16 December 2004 from the President of the Economic and Social Council addressed to the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2005/8) and a note by the Secretariat as an input to the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2005 of the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2005/CRP.4).

Action taken by the Commission

2. At the same meeting, the Commission authorized the Chairperson to draw the attention of the President of the Economic and Social Council to the above-mentioned note by the Secretariat (E/CN.6/2005/CRP.4) for the information of the Council's high-level segment in 2005.

Chapter V

Provisional agenda for the fiftieth session of the Commission

1. The Commission considered agenda item 6 at its resumed 20th meeting, on 22 March 2005. It had before it a note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Commission (E/CN.6/2005/L.13), which was introduced by the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women.

2. At the same meeting, following statements by the representatives of Cuba, Guatemala and Azerbaijan, the Commission recommended the draft provisional agenda for its fiftieth session, as orally revised, for adoption by the Economic and Social Council (see chap. I, sect. B, draft decision J).

Chapter VI

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-ninth session

1. At its resumed 20th meeting, on 22 March 2005, the Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the Commission on its forty-ninth session (E/CN.6/2005/L.12).

2. Following statements by the representatives of Burkina Faso and China, the Commission adopted the draft report on its forty-ninth session, as orally corrected, and entrusted the Bureau with its completion.

Chapter VII
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission on the Status of Women held its forty-ninth session at United Nations Headquarters from 28 February to 11 March and on 22 March 2005. The Commission held 20 meetings (1st to 20th).

2. The session was opened by the Chairperson of the Commission, Kyung-wha Kang (Republic of Korea), who also made a statement.

3. At its 1st meeting, on 28 February, the Secretary-General, the acting President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council, addressed the Commission.

4. The Commission viewed a short video-presentation, entitled "Agents of Change", prepared by the Department of Public Information.

5. At the same meeting, statements were made by the First Lady of Mexico, the Minister of Social Affairs and Gender Equality of Denmark, the Minister of Water and Irrigation of Kenya and the Vice-Chairperson of the National Committee on Women and Children under the State Council of China and Vice-President of the All-China Women's Federation, in their capacity as dignitaries representing the host countries of the four United Nations World Conferences on Women.

B. Attendance

6. The session was attended by representatives of 45 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended.

C. Election of officers

7. In accordance with paragraph 2 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/21, in which the Council recommended that the officers elected to the Bureau of the Commission should serve for a term of office of two years, the following officers elected at the forty-eighth session continued to serve during the forty-ninth session:

Chairperson:
Kyung-wha **Kang** (Republic of Korea)

Vice-Chairpersons:
Tebatso **Baleseng** (Botswana)
Beatrice **Maillé** (Canada)
Marine **Davtyan*** (Armenia) (who also served as Rapporteur)

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* Elected at the forty-eighth session to serve for the forty-ninth session only.

8. At its 1st meeting, on 28 February, the Commission elected Romy Tincopa (Peru) to serve as Vice-Chairperson of the forty-ninth session.

D. Agenda and organization of work

9. At its 1st meeting, on 28 February, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda and approved its organization of work as contained in document E/CN.6/2005/1 and Corr.1 and 2. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":
   (a) Review of gender mainstreaming in entities of the United Nations system;
   (b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;
   (c) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives;
      (i) Review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century";
      (ii) Current challenges and forward-looking strategies for the advancement and empowerment of women and girls.
4. Communications concerning the status of women.
5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.
6. Provisional agenda for the fiftieth session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-ninth session.

E. Appointment of the members the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women

10. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27, the Commission established a working group to consider communications concerning the status of women. The following five members, nominated by their regional groups, were appointed:

Xiao Mei Li (China)
Farah **Adjalova** (Azerbaijan)
Connie **Taracena** (Guatemala)
Richard **Wood** (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Adekunbi Abibat **Sonaike** (Nigeria)

11. The Working Group held one meeting.

Annex I

Summary submitted by the chairpersons of the high-level round table on "Innovations in institutional arrangements for promoting gender equality at the national level"

1. At its second meeting, on 28 February, the Commission held a high-level round table in two parallel sessions on innovations in institutional arrangements for promoting gender equality at the national level in the context of the 10-year review and appraisal of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. The purpose of the high-level round table, as set out in Commission decision 46/101, was to enhance the emphasis in the Commission on practical implementation through the sharing of good practices and lessons learned, the identification of obstacles and constraints encountered in the context of implementation, as well as the identification of new challenges and emerging issues. A discussion guide prepared by the Bureau of the Commission (E./CN.6/2005/CRP.2) provided the framework for the dialogue. The report of the expert group meeting organized by the Division for the Advancement of Women (28 November to 2 December 2004, Rome) on "The role of national mechanisms in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women: achievements, gaps and challenges"[a] also supported the discussions.

2. The high-level round table was organized in two parallel sessions to allow for interaction among the large number of participants. The sessions were chaired, respectively, by the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women, Ms. Kyung-wha Kang, and the Deputy Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations, Mr. Gilbert Laurin. After a short presentation by the co-chairs on the findings and recommendations of the expert group meeting, held in Rome, the first segment of the high-level round table was devoted to a discussion among ministers and high-level representatives of national machineries for the advancement of women attending the forty-ninth session of the Commission. During the second segment, invited representatives of United Nations entities, representatives from non-governmental and international organizations and academics also took part in the discussion.

3. A total of 73 speakers participated in the two sessions of the high-level round table. Participants included: 55 ministers and deputy ministers, 6 representatives of United Nations entities, 10 representatives of non-governmental organizations or from academic institutions and 1 representative of an international organization.

4. Participants discussed recent achievements in strengthening or expanding national machineries for the advancement of women and the promotion of gender equality. They suggested that the effectiveness of these mechanisms had been enhanced when they were located at the highest level of decision-making, for example in affiliation with the office of the President/Head of State or headed at ministerial level, and benefited from strong and visible political support. Participants also gave examples of enhanced mandates and increased human or financial resources available to national machineries. National machineries had also taken an active role in ensuring the integration of gender perspectives in national development plans.

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[a] http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/nationalm2004/.

5. An increasing number of countries had established multiple mechanisms for promoting gender equality. These encompassed, for example, mechanisms at different levels of Government, for example at national, municipal and local levels, and gender focal points or units in different ministries, as well as inter-ministerial committees. New mechanisms had been added, such as gender equality commissions and ombudspersons for gender equality. Parliaments were increasingly establishing parliamentary caucuses on gender equality. Special committees, national gender equality councils or boards with coordination and/or advisory roles had also been established. Such bodies frequently included different stakeholders, such as representatives from civil society, trade unions, academic institutions, political parties and the private sector. Enhanced attention was being paid to the situation of the girl child. Participants welcomed the increased involvement of men in mechanisms and activities promoting gender equality. The establishment of new bodies to address discrimination on various grounds, including sex, race, age, ethnicity, was also planned or under way in a number of countries.

6. Structural improvements of national machineries were frequently accompanied by increased collaboration among bodies at the national, municipal and local levels, as well as between governmental and non-governmental bodies and organizations. There was also a growing trend of regional networking among national machineries and enhanced cooperation between human rights groups and women's groups and networks in support of gender equality. Participants noted that clearly defined mandates, responsibilities and relationships of all stakeholders facilitated enhanced coordination and cooperation on gender equality issues. Information and communication technologies (ICTs) could play an important role in supporting coordination.

7. Participants described a wide range of activities undertaken and tools developed by national mechanisms to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women. These included promotion and facilitation of the use of the gender mainstreaming strategy in different sectors of government, incorporation of gender perspectives into national and sectoral development plans and policies and support for increased use of gender-based analysis. In a number of countries, national machineries have spearheaded the promotion of gender-sensitive budgeting processes. They have developed tools for enhancing government accountability in the area of gender equality and provided training and capacity-building for staff and senior managers at all levels of government. Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms have also been improved, including through regular reporting to the government, and the use of gender-specific indicators for programming and planning processes. National machineries had also collaborated with national statistics bureaux in the collection and use of sex-disaggregated statistics and data and were also involved in organizing awareness-raising campaigns and outreach activities.

8. Participants highlighted the central importance of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals in shaping the work of institutional mechanisms. They also acknowledged the importance of international and regional treaties, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. In a number of instances, national mechanisms had been instrumental in ensuring a stronger focus on women's human rights. Participants provided information about the role national machineries had played in achieving legislative changes in civil, family, criminal and labour law as well as in regard to women's property and land rights. Examples were also provided in regard to social

security, health and education. Important developments had also been facilitated in regard to violence against women in all its forms, particularly domestic violence and trafficking in women and girls.

9. Participants discussed the challenges which many national machineries continued to face. These included a lack of or limited political support for their work, limited financial and human resources and location at a low level within the governmental structures, which curtailed their decision-making power and influence. In some instances, national machineries continued without a clear, focused mandate or the capacity and authority for efficient and effective coordination of gender equality policy within government, at all levels, and with stakeholders outside government. Participants noted that a lack of accountability, including the absence of reporting, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, as well as insufficient sex-disaggregated data and indictors, also hampered the effectiveness of national machineries. Lack of tools and capacity-building efforts, including training in gender mainstreaming, were also noted. The utilization of the gender analysis methodology in non-traditional areas where the gender-differentiated impact on women and men was not immediately evident was recognized as a particular challenge. The existence of a policy or legal framework for the work of the national machinery was in itself not sufficient to achieve results. Lack of a clear understanding of the concept of gender equality and of the gender mainstreaming strategy and how to use it among government officials and the general public was also seen as a challenge.

10. Participants commented on the continuing low number of women in political and decision-making fields and its impact on gender equality policies. They discussed the need for measures, including the introduction of quotas and/or other affirmative actions to increase women's participation in public life. Participants suggested that increases in the number of women had a positive impact on the political will of Governments to work for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women. Non-governmental organizations played a crucial role in mobilizing and sustaining such political will. Some speakers noted the impact of traditional values and beliefs and cultural considerations that discriminated against women, as well as the persistence of stereotypes regarding the role and responsibilities of women and men in the family and society on the achievement of gender equality. National machineries should take a lead role in facilitating public dialogues on such difficult issues.

11. Participants recalled that the Beijing Platform for Action called for the promotion of gender equality through the use of a dual strategy, gender mainstreaming, complemented by programmes and projects targeted at women to address specific gaps or challenges. While awareness-raising initiatives were needed to increase public support for gender equality, school curricula at all levels should reflect the principle of gender equality so that it could be understood and embraced by young women and men. It was also suggested that the gender mainstreaming strategy should be further explained to the general public.

12. Participants identified new and emerging challenges for enhancing the role of institutional mechanisms for promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as areas requiring increased attention from national machineries. The growing recognition of the link between achieving the goals of gender equality and of social and economic development and democratic governance generally

called for enhanced partnerships among all stakeholders and for partnerships with men. Likewise, national mechanisms should further strengthen collaboration with non-governmental organizations and women's groups. Since the particular political, social and cultural context was crucial for the successful functioning of the national machinery, efforts were needed to further empower and support such mechanisms within their particular contexts.

13. Among the measures required to ensure the enhanced promotion of gender equality through national mechanisms, participants called for sufficient authority and human and financial resources, as well as their involvement in policymaking processes. The international community should provide assistance to the institutional mechanisms in developing countries. Emphasis was placed on the need to develop effective and appropriate approaches and mechanisms for dealing with discrimination against women, as distinct from discrimination based on other grounds.

14. In addition to specific expertise on gender equality, national machineries also needed lobbying and negotiations skills to be effective. They should undertake capacity-building and training activities and develop tools and methodologies for gender mainstreaming, monitoring and evaluation as well as for enhancing accountability, including indicators and time-bound targets. Gender impact assessments of legislation and policies and sex-disaggregated statistics and data enhanced accountability contributed to better monitoring of progress towards the achievement of gender equality and the identification of areas where further action was required.

15. Participants agreed that national mechanisms for promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women should be actively involved in the implementation and monitoring of progress towards the objectives of the Millennium Declaration in order to ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment were fully incorporated into all efforts towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. They should make greater use of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in all legislative and policy initiatives.

16. National machineries were encouraged to commission independent assessments of their own effectiveness or conduct self-assessments to enhance accountability. They were also encouraged to intensify their dialogue with human rights bodies, civil society and the private sector, as well as the media and the general public in support of gender equality.

17. The exchange of experiences, good practices and challenges among high-level representatives from capitals, and the contributions of other stakeholders were seen as a valuable contribution to the 10-year review and appraisal of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. Participants encouraged the continuation of such exchange at the national and regional levels as well as cooperation on specific topics.

Annex II

Summary submitted by the moderator of the panel discussion on synergies between national-level implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Summary submitted by the Moderator (Romy Tincopa)

1. At its 7th meeting, on 3 March 2005, the Commission on the Status of Women held a panel discussion followed by a dialogue on synergies between national-level implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The panellists were: Louise Arbour, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; Rosario G. Manalo, Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women; Dubravka Šimonović, Head of the Human Rights Section, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Croatia; Melanie S. Griffin, Minister for Social Services and Community Development of the Bahamas; Valerie Knowles, Bahamas Family Planning Association in the Bahamas; and Sanja Sarnavka, representative of B.a.B.e (Be active, Be emancipated, a non-governmental organization in Croatia). An issues paper prepared by the Division for the Advancement of Women provided the framework for the discussion.

2. Participants noted that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was the central international human rights instrument for the protection and promotion of women's human rights and the elimination of discrimination against women. As a policy instrument, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action complemented the Convention and provided practical and concrete recommendations for action to achieve gender equality. They mutually reinforced each other and, together, provided the framework as well as practical tools for action to combat discrimination and to realize gender equality through legislative reform, policy and programme development and other measures, in all areas. Both were critical guideposts for ensuring gender equality. The synergies between the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Convention provided opportunities for their enhanced implementation at the national level.

3. The women's movement had played a crucial role in raising women's concerns onto the national and international agenda, especially in the area of human rights. Participants commended the efforts of civil society, especially of women's groups and networks to support implementation of the Convention and the Platform for Action. They had taken concrete actions to provide services to women and to raise awareness and had also undertaken lobbying and monitoring activities.

4. Participants highlighted the importance of partnerships and collaboration among diverse stakeholders at the national level in the implementation of the Convention and the Platform for Action. Joint efforts of Governments, non-governmental organizations and civil society were essential for progress towards gender equality. The importance of collaborative efforts between Governments and non-governmental organizations in the reporting process under the Convention, including follow-up to the Committee's concluding comments, were also stressed.

The format of the panel, which included representatives of Government and non-governmental organizations from the same country, was seen as a good initiative to highlight the importance of collaboration in the implementation of the Platform and the Convention.

5. Participants welcomed the increase in the number of States parties to the Convention since the Beijing Conference, as well as the adoption, entry into force and use of the Optional Protocol as examples of concrete results of actions called for in the Platform. The high number of States adhering to these two instruments was indicative of increased global awareness and political will to uphold the principles of non-discrimination and gender equality at the national level. Participants welcomed the attention paid by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to the implementation of the Platform in the exercise of its mandate.

6. Participants gave examples of progress in the implementation of the two instruments at the national level, including constitutional and legal revisions, reform of personal status laws and family codes, penal and employment codes and laws related to inheritance, nationality and land rights. National plans of action and policies on gender equality and the advancement of women had been put in place, and quotas and other measures had been adopted to increase the number of women in decision-making positions and in public life, including in Parliament. The Convention and the Platform for Action had guided the work of Governments and non-governmental organizations to improve access for girls and women to education at all levels, improve health-care services and expand microcredit and business opportunities for women. Court and judicial procedures had become more gender sensitive, thus improving women's access to justice.

7. The Platform for Action and its follow-up and implementation process, together with the Convention, had facilitated the strengthening of national machineries, including the establishment of ombudspersons, observatories and parliamentary committees. Mechanisms mandated to follow up on the concluding comments of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women had also been established.

8. Participants agreed that despite progress in implementation, significant gaps remained between the legal and policy frameworks of these instruments and women's daily reality. A lack of resources, particularly in developing countries, was seen as a persistent obstacle to implementation. The synergies between the two instruments had been insufficiently utilized, and measures to promote gender equality remained fragmented. Furthermore, discriminatory laws were still in place in many countries. Violence against women, a fundamental human rights violation, remained alarmingly prevalent, and the increasing infection rates of women with HIV was indicative of the effects of gender-based discrimination. Many States also maintained reservations to many of the provisions of the Convention. Women's ability to claim their rights remained limited, owing to the lack of legal literacy and awareness about the Convention and the Platform for Action. Women's lack of empowerment to assert their rights was often compounded by insufficient or ineffective means of redress for violations at the national level.

9. Participants called for a reaffirmation of the goals and commitments of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" and for enhanced political will to implement them. Participants called for multisectoral and multidisciplinary

approaches to achieve change towards gender equality. It was also necessary to address stereotypical attitudes, practices, cultural values and belief systems that discriminated against women. Adequate resources, including through international assistance to developing countries and support from the United Nations system, were necessary to achieve these goals and objectives, ensuring however the optimal use of limited resources, both human and financial. There was also a need for enhanced solidarity between women in the "North" and women in the "South". The role of men in the promotion of gender equality should be further emphasized and efforts to encourage men to contribute to change were called for. Likewise, a new generation of gender equality advocates needed to be nurtured and mentored.

10. Cooperation between Governments and non-governmental organizations for the promotion of gender equality should be enhanced and Governments were encouraged to maintain open channels of communication with non-governmental organizations and women's networks. At the same time, it was noted that non-governmental organizations alone could not achieve change, and should therefore continue to collaborate with government and other stakeholders, especially with parliamentarians.

11. Participants encouraged the 12 Member States of the United Nations who had not yet ratified the Convention to use the momentum of the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women to intensify their efforts towards ratification. States parties to the Convention who had not ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention were encouraged to do so. Further efforts were needed to withdraw all reservations to the Convention. At regional level, reporting under the Convention and in follow-up to the Platform for Action should be integrated, and related guidelines should be developed.

12. Support was expressed for an extension of the meeting time of the Committee. It was suggested that the Commission on the Status of Women create the mandate for a special rapporteur on laws that discriminate against women in order to accelerate progress in implementation of the Platform for Action and of the Convention.

13. In order to accelerate implementation of the Platform and the Convention, steps should be taken to incorporate gender equality and non-discrimination in legislation and monitoring mechanisms, strengthen national action plans and integrate measures to follow up on the concluding comments of the Committee. Programmes and policies for gender equality should include a rights-based approach. Steps should also be taken to guarantee women's access to justice and raise awareness of their rights. Women's use of the international human rights machinery should be encouraged. Public officials, in particular judges, prosecutors and law enforcement personnel, should be trained about the Convention. Greater efforts were also needed to mainstream gender perspectives in all polices and programmes.

14. The Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights should continue to cooperate in the promotion of gender equality and women's enjoyment of their human rights. Links between the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, other human rights treaty bodies and special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights should also be strengthened, including through the annual meeting of persons chairing human rights treaty bodies.

Annex III

Summary submitted by the moderator of the panel discussion entitled "Addressing the linkages between the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration: progress, gaps and challenges"

Summary submitted by the Moderator (Kyung-wha Kang)

1. At its 8th meeting, on 3 March 2005, the Commission on the Status of Women held a panel discussion followed by a dialogue entitled "Addressing the linkages between the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration: progress, gaps and challenges". The panellists were: Ms. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Minister for Foreign Affairs of South Africa; Mr. Zéphirin Diabré, Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); Ms. Naila Kabeer (Bangladesh), fellow, Institute of Development Studies/University of Sussex, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; Ms. Caren Grown, Director of Poverty Reduction and Economic Governance, International Centre for Research on Women, Washington D.C.; and Ms. Susana Chiarotti, Director, Institute for Gender, Rights and Development, Rosario, Argentina. The panel was moderated by Ms. Kyung-wha Kang, Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women.

2. An issues paper prepared by the Division for the Advancement of Women provided the framework for the dialogue, and the report of the Expert Group meeting organized by the Division entitled "Achievements, gaps and challenges in linking the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals"[a] (Baku, Azerbaijan, 7-10 February 2005) also supported the discussion.

3. Participants stressed that the linkages between the Beijing Platform for Action and the time-bound development goals contained in the Millennium Declaration, known as the Millennium Development Goals, needed to be explicitly addressed. The High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly to review implementation of the Millennium Declaration, scheduled to take place in September 2005, and its preparatory process provided a valuable opportunity for ensuring the linkages. Participants underscored the importance of a rights-based approach to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the protection and promotion of women's human rights. In this regard, attention was drawn to the contribution of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

4. Participants underscored the point that gender equality and the empowerment of women are goals in themselves, as well as an important means towards the

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[a] http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/bpfamd2005/EGM-BPFA-MD-MDG-2005-REPORT-final.pdf.

achievement of all the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and thus, the Goals could not be achieved without women's empowerment and gender equality. In turn, progress in reaching the internationally agreed development goals contributed to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. Therefore, the integration of gender perspectives into all policies and programmes aimed at the implementation of the Goals was crucial.

5. Participants noted the high visibility and level of commitment to the Millennium Declaration. While the specific and time-bound nature of the Millennium Development Goals provided effective benchmarks for monitoring progress and achieving concrete results, participants drew attention to the comprehensive content of the Millennium Declaration, which, in addition to development and poverty eradication, also addressed such issues as human rights, democracy, good governance and peace and security, in all of which the promotion of gender equality should be a central consideration.

6. Participants expressed concern that, although the linkages between gender equality and all the other Millennium Development Goals were widely acknowledged, efforts aimed at realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women continued to be largely limited to Goal 3 and its targets and indicators. Connection was rarely made between the other Goals and the Beijing Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Providing concrete examples of how actions to integrate gender perspectives enhanced efforts to achieve the other Millennium Development Goals on poverty, child mortality, HIV/AIDS, health, water and sanitation, the participants agreed that much greater efforts were needed to highlight the gender dimensions of the Goals. Furthermore, since the Goals represented a minimum set from all the internationally agreed development goals, policymakers and other stakeholders should continue to fully address the comprehensive objectives of the Beijing Platform for Action. This was especially relevant in regard to women's sexual and reproductive health, which was not covered in the Millennium Development Goals.

7. Adequate human and financial resources were necessary for the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session, as well as for reaching the Millennium Development Goals, especially in developing countries. It was therefore critical to enhance global partnerships and to honour commitments to official development assistance (ODA) (Goal 8). Debt relief and market access for developing countries would enhance implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and contribute to the achievement of Goal 3. Preliminary calculations in some countries had shown that, compared to other expenditures such as debt servicing, the costs of gender-specific interventions to meet Goal 3 were quite small. The impact of globalization on women also had to be taken into account in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals.

8. Participants noted that the knowledge-base, technology and resources existed to reduce gender inequalities and empower women. Although a number of countries will miss the first of the Millennium Development Goals (eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education by 2005), increased and targeted efforts would make it possible to reach the goal of gender equality and empowerment of women by 2015. This would, however, require concrete steps to

scale up investments in gender equality and empowerment of women and enhance gender-sensitive budget processes at local, national and international levels. Attention to gender perspectives in policy and programming frameworks at the country level, such as the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and poverty reduction strategy papers, should be assured. Better use could also be made of the reporting process under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

9. Participants noted the seven interdependent strategic priorities that the United Nations Millennium Project Task Force on Education and Gender Equality (Task Force 3)[b] had recommended for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women: (a) strengthening opportunities for post-primary education for girls while simultaneously meeting commitments to universal primary education; (b) guaranteeing sexual and reproductive health and rights; (c) investing in infrastructure to reduce women's and girls' time burdens; (d) guaranteeing women's and girls' property and inheritance rights; (e) eliminating gender inequality in employment by decreasing women's reliance on informal employment, closing gender gaps in earnings, and reducing occupational segregation; (f) increasing women's share of seats in national parliaments and local governmental bodies; and (g) combating violence against women and girls. These strategies were in line with the objectives of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session and should be speedily put into practice. The needs of vulnerable groups of women, especially poor women, indigenous women, women living with HIV/AIDS, women in conflict settings and young and adolescent women, required particular attention.

10. Participants indicated that political commitment, enhanced technical capacity, institutional and structural change, as well as increased monitoring and accountability, in addition to adequate resources, were crucial for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. They also called for improved tools for gender mainstreaming and for holistic programmes to tackle the synergies among the various policy documents. Lack of sex-disaggregated data continued to pose challenges for monitoring, requiring improvements in the quality and frequency of data collection.

11. Further efforts were needed to strengthen the gender dimensions of the targets and indicators related to the Millennium Development Goals, and additional targets and indicators should be considered. Participants in the High-level Plenary Meetings should consider adding a new target, namely to provide access to sexual and reproductive health through the primary health-care system.

12. National machinery for the advancement of women had a critical role in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals. Cooperation between Governments and civil society, as well as Parliaments, trade unions and women's networks should be strengthened and greater efforts should be made to ensure the contribution of men and boys towards gender equality.

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[b] Millennium Project Task Force 3, *Taking action: achieving gender equality and empowering women*, 2005.

Annex IV

Summary submitted by the moderator of the panel discussion on the presentation of the review and appraisal processes at the regional level — achievements, gaps and challenges

Summary submitted by the Moderator (Ms. Marine Davtyan)

1. At its 10th meeting, on 4 March 2005, the Commission on the Status of Women held a panel discussion followed by a dialogue on "Presentation of the review and appraisal processes at regional level: achievements, gaps and challenges". The panellists were: Josephine Ouedraogo, Acting Deputy Executive Secretary, Economic Commission of Africa (ECA); Patrice Robineau, Acting Deputy Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Europe (ECE); Alicia Barcena-Ibarra, Deputy Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); Thelma Kay, Chief, Emerging Social Issues Division, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP); and Fatima Sbaity-Kassem, Director, Centre for Women, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). An issues paper prepared by the Division for the Advancement of Women provided the framework for the discussion.

2. The panellists summarized the regional review processes and high-level regional meetings which had been supported by the regional commissions. They provided inputs to the 10-year global review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.[a] These reviews had provided detailed insights into the situation of women, evaluated progress and identified challenges and areas requiring intensified efforts. They had highlighted region-specific issues, thus responding to the respective regional context. ECA's primary focus had been on combating poverty. In the ECE region, particular attention had been paid to women in the economy, institutional mechanisms to promote gender equality, and trafficking in women. ESCAP's review process had covered all critical areas of concern, while the main focus of ECLAC had been on women's poverty, economic autonomy and gender equality and empowerment, political participation and institution-building. ESCWA had paid special attention to peace and had also addressed issues such as women's illiteracy and poverty. The meetings had resulted in a reaffirmation of the Beijing Platform for Action and of the respective regional platforms, and had stressed commitment to their full implementation. Implementation of the Beijing Platform and regional platforms also contributed to the implementation of the outcomes of other United Nations conferences and events and towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

3. Panellists suggested that the process of implementing the commitments of the Beijing Platform for Action at regional level had been characterized by strengthened cooperation between Governments and civil society. Networks and partnerships had been established or strengthened among different stakeholders, and alliances among different groups of women had been reinforced. The regional commissions had played a catalytic role in bringing together different actors, including entities of the United Nations system.

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[a] See E/CN.6/2005/CRP.7 and Add.1 to 5.

4. While in general there had been progress in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action, results varied from region to region and among countries as well as in regard to various critical areas of concern. Panellists, for example, noted that in the area of participation in decision-making, women in Rwanda held a record 48.5 per cent of the seats in Parliament. In the ESCAP region, more than 20 per cent of parliamentarians were women. Women had also made significant gains in the ESCWA region, albeit from a very low base. The increasing number of women in local government especially through quotas and other affirmative action measures was an encouraging development.

5. National machineries and other institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women had been established or strengthened in all regions, although not uniformly or systematically. The important role of parliament had been emphasized. The past decade had also witnessed women's successful and increased use of information and communications technologies and new media for policy advocacy and increased networking within countries and across borders.

6. In all regions, adherence to international human rights instruments of particular relevance to women had increased, and more attention was being paid to women's enjoyment of human rights. Laws had been adopted to eliminate discrimination against women and support women's equality in many areas, although conflicts persisted between customary, statutory and religious laws. Efforts to tackle violence against women had become more systematic.

7. Several panellists highlighted progress in girls' and women's education, noting that enrolment rates for girls were now equal to and in some cases exceeded those of boys. Some regions where girls had lagged behind were well on the way to achieving the goal of eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education. Panellists noted that particular attention had been given to the HIV/AIDS pandemic and other health issues as they related to women, through awareness-raising and in prevention and treatment. In some regions, visible progress had been made in improving female life expectancy and reducing maternal mortality rates and more attention was being paid to women's sexual and reproductive rights. More women were now in formal employment, the number of female entrepreneurs was growing and microcredit schemes had been established.

8. Panellists emphasized that many challenges remained to be met. Women had suffered from the impact of globalization and the lack of attention to gender perspectives in trade, growth and employment policies. Limited attention to gender issues in fiscal and budgetary policies and in reforms of social expenditures and benefits had had disproportionately negative impacts on women. The reviews had also found deteriorating social security, health and work conditions for women, gender pay gaps and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, especially of HIV/AIDS. These processes had highlighted the need to integrate gender perspectives into all policies and programmes in all sectors and had drawn attention to the negative impact on women of gender-blind policies.

9. Some regions or subregions, such as Africa, Western Asia and countries in transition in the ECE region had experienced increasing rates of female poverty. The needs of women in least developed countries remained unmet, and certain vulnerable groups of women, especially single heads of households, older women, adolescents and young women, migrant women, rural women and indigenous women also required further targeted attention. Trafficking in women was a

particular challenge in the ECE region. In the ESCAP region, the growing informalization and casualization of the labour market had led to irregularity and lack of income security for women. Political instability due to armed conflict and economic constraints had impacted negatively on the welfare of women in the ESCWA region. Although women in the ECLAC region contributed significantly to development, some 44 per cent remained poor.

10. Institutional mechanisms remained weak in many countries, as reflected in their limited human and financial resources, insufficient commitment and political will; isolation from line ministries; and lack of monitoring and accountability mechanisms.

11. Panellists highlighted suggestions for future actions that had emanated from the regional meetings. Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action required expanded use of the gender mainstreaming strategy and close linkages between economic and social policies and programmes, gender-sensitive fiscal and budgetary policies, gender impact assessments of trade policies and social sector reforms. Particular challenges had to be addressed through specific action plans with clearly identified actors and measures. Panellists highlighted the critical role of non-governmental organizations and called for more effective coordination among all actors at the local, national and regional levels, including with and among public agencies, civil society and the regional commissions, in order to learn from and share experiences, exchange good practices and work on transboundary issues. Action was suggested to further disseminate the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; increase resource allocation for gender equality programmes; develop regional networks of men and women economists to work on gender-sensitive economic policy; enhance collection and use of data disaggregated by sex; and improve tools to facilitate the use of the gender mainstreaming strategy. An enhanced focus on institutional development, the rule of law and implementation of the Convention and ratification of the Optional Protocol was needed, as well as on awareness-raising to tackle stereotypes and discriminatory practices, and cultural changes.

12. Panellists noted that the role and mandates of the regional commissions in regard to gender equality had been expanded after the Beijing Conference to take account of the new strategic orientations, and gender equality units in the commissions had both normative and operational functions. ECA had developed a gender-development index that would serve as a single framework for evaluating progress in implementation. ESCAP had provided normative and technical assistance to the region's policymakers, especially those in the national machineries for the advancement of women. The Commissions continued to implement capacity-building and training workshops to strengthen institutional capacity to mainstream gender perspectives in all aspects of their work.

Annex V

Summary submitted by the moderator of the panel discussion on remaining challenges in relation to statistics and indicators, building on the discussions at the high-level round table organized at the forty-eighth session of the Commission in 2004 as well as available data from *The World's Women: Trends and Statistics* (2005) and the *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development* (2005)

Summary submitted by the Moderator (Beatrice Maille)

1. At its 14th meeting, on 8 March 2005, the Commission held a panel discussion followed by a dialogue on "Remaining challenges in relation to statistics and indicators, building on the discussions at the high-level round table organized at the fifty-eighth session of the Commission in 2004 as well as available data from *The World's Women: Trends and Statistics* (2005) and the *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development* (2005)". The panellists were: Ms. Paula Monina Collado, Deputy Administrator, Philippines National Statistics Office; Ms. Tatiana Gorbacheva, Director, Department for Statistics of Labour, Education, Science and Culture Statistics, Russian Federation; Ms. Vivian Milsavljevic, Statistician, Women and Development Unit, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; Ms. June Zeitlin, Executive Director of the Women's Environment and Development Organization; Ms. Mary Chamie, Chief, Demographic and Social Statistics Division, United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs; Ms. Hania Zlotnik, Director, Population Division, United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs; Ms. Kristiina Kangaspunta, representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; Ms. Francesca Perucci, Officer-in-charge, Statistical Planning and Development Section, United Nations Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

2. An issues paper prepared by the Division for the Advancement of Women, the *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development* (2005) and data available from the special report of *The World's Women: Trends and Statistics* (2005) provided the framework for the dialogue and supported the discussion.

3. Participants underscored the importance of sex-disaggregated data and gender-specific indicators for measuring and assessing progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and for effective policy formulation and programme design to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women. Since the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action, efforts to collect such data through censuses and surveys and to develop systems of gender-sensitive indicators had continued and expanded into new areas, supported by capacity-building initiatives. As a consequence, more experience and capacity now existed to measure and undertake gender-based analysis in the economic and social areas. Efforts to achieve the time-bound targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) had further heightened the need for sex-disaggregated data and intensified discussions on the gender dimensions of all the Millennium Development Goals and adequate measurement of progress towards their achievement. Availability of sex-disaggregated data and analysis, including in

specialized publications, also served as important advocacy tools for gender equality.

4. Participants underlined the importance of collaboration and networking of national machineries for the advancement of women and other advocates for gender equality with national statistical offices/bureaux and other stakeholders in achieving progress in the collection, dissemination and analysis of sex-disaggregated data and statistics and the preparation of gender-sensitive indicators. Such collaboration between users and producers of data clarified their respective needs and constraints, encouraged the development of new methodological approaches and increased accountability of all actors for gender equality. International organizations and non-governmental organizations also played an important role by supporting and encouraging the collection, dissemination and use of sex-disaggregated data. Work to measure progress in achieving the MDGs had also led to the establishment of new mechanisms and collaborative efforts for data collection and analysis at national and international level.

5. Notwithstanding the achievements made, participants were concerned about the insufficient progress in collection, dissemination and use of data disaggregated by sex at the national level and the limited reliability of some data. Irregular collection of data continued to make the assessment of trends over time difficult. In many areas, existing methodologies did not include gender perspectives and the resulting measurements insufficiently reflected the situation of women. Furthermore, measurement efforts continued to focus on numbers, or quantifiable aspects, thus neglecting many critical qualitative aspects of the Beijing Platform for Action that were more difficult to measure.

6. Greater efforts and creative approaches and ideas were, however, also needed to make better use of existing statistics. Lack of user demand for certain data could result in late availability or non-tabulation, as for example in the area of international migration. The *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development* (2005) had highlighted the need for sex-disaggregated data in order to facilitate expanded gender-based analysis of international migration. A first United Nations *Global Report on Human Trafficking Trends* would be issued later in 2005, and would also highlight the methodological difficulties in collecting reliable and comprehensive data in this area, as well as point out ways in which these could be addressed. The forthcoming United Nations report *The World's Women* would highlight areas where lack of or insufficient data made gender-specific measurements and analysis difficult, such as in regard to housing, violence against women and poverty. Other areas where significant gender-related data was lacking and methodological gaps persisted included women's economic participation, including employment, armed conflict, the environment and natural resource management, trafficking in women and macroeconomic issues such as trade, migration and globalization.

7. While noting the importance of achieving the MDGs, participants expressed concern about the lack of gender-sensitivity in the existing indicators. This was, for example, the case with current poverty measurements, which insufficiently reflected women's poverty as well as their contribution to the economy. Other indicators, including those on education and power and decision-making, also failed to capture important gender-specific aspects. The absence of indicators on issues such as

violence against women and sexual and reproductive health in the MDGs was especially noted.

8. Participants highlighted the need to ensure collection of data disaggregated by other factors, in particular age and race, to ensure targeted policies in support of vulnerable groups of women. Particular attention should be paid to the situation of women in rural areas and in the informal sector. Some countries, especially those emerging from conflict, were faced with an almost complete lack of data and limited capacity for data collection. Concern was also expressed about under-funding, or cuts in funding, for social and gender statistics at national and international level. The need for a long-term investment in systematic collection of sex-disaggregated data and for methodology and indicator development in all areas was emphasized. In addition to better data collection, there was also a significant need to enhance capacity for gender analysis of data and statistics.

9. Areas where future work was planned included methodological work to enhance the gender sensitivity of budgeting processes and of agricultural statistics. Collection and analysis of crime statistics also should be enhanced to improve measurements on violence against women and a United Nations methodology for measuring domestic violence was called for. Participants suggested that the focus of future improvements in collection and analysis should be on areas such as work, reproductive health and rights, domestic violence, education including quality of education and poverty. Greater efforts should be made to disseminate and widely publicize the results of surveys. It was suggested that the time use study the United Nations had prepared in the 1990s should be updated.

10. As availability of gender statistics received a higher profile, the importance of exchanging experiences and lessons learned was stressed. Participants emphasized that reliable and systematic data collection, dissemination and use required adequate financial and human resources and capacity-building, particularly at the national level. The hope was expressed that the Commission on the Status of Women would continue to discuss the questions of data collection and methodological development and analysis at its fiftieth session.

Annex VI

Summary submitted by the moderator of the panel discussion on "Future perspectives on the promotion of gender equality: through the eyes of young women and men"

Summary submitted by the Moderator (Rima Salah)

1. At its 15th meeting, on 9 March 2005, the Commission held a panel discussion followed by a dialogue on "Future perspectives on the promotion of gender equality: through the eyes of young women and men". The panellists were: Ms. Frida Ohlsson (Sweden), Secretary-General of the Young Folk's Association; Ms. Ingrid Tharasook (Thailand), student in anthropology and women's studies; Mr. Srdjan Stakic, Adolescent and Youth Specialist, United Nations Population Fund; Ms. Catalina Devandas Aguilar (Costa Rica), former Vice-President of the Forum for Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities; Mr. Michael Flood (Australia), Postdoctoral Fellow at the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University; Ms. Felicitas Martinez Solano (Mexico), Director of the *Coordinadora Nacional de Mujeres Indigenas* (National Coordination of Indigenous Women); and Mr. Edford Gandu Mutuma (Zambia), chairperson of Lentswe LaRona Young African Advocates for Rights, and Director of programmes at Youth Vision, Zambia. The panel was moderated by Ms. Rima Salah, Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Children's' Fund (UNICEF). An issues paper prepared by the Division for the Advancement of Women provided the framework for the dialogue.

2. Participants agreed that it was important to ensure the integration of young women's and men's perspectives into policies and programmes for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and to give greater consideration to issues that were of specific concern to them, including in relation to poverty; education and training; health, including sexual and reproductive health; HIV/AIDS; violence against young women and girls and trafficking; employment; power-relations between young women and men; their image and portrayal in the media; as well as cultural stereotypes and traditions.

3. Governments had a special responsibility to support, consult and collaborate with young people, and with youth and community organizations in order to address their concerns in national policies. Participants discussed the important role of youth organizations and the need to develop effective partnerships, links and networks for the promotion of equality of young women and girls. Collaboration among all stakeholders and sectors, including among intergovernmental, governmental and civil society organizations, young women and men and schools, parents, youth and community organizations was called for. Participants noted good practices such as youth parliaments and the establishment of national observatories for young people, and called for the strengthening of partnerships between youth and women's organizations. They also underscored the need for support from families and communities for efforts to achieve equality of young women and girls and the creation of an enabling environment for the girl child.

4. Participants noted that young women and girls were particularly affected by poverty, which impacted on all spheres of their lives and limited their possibilities

for development and their options in many fields, such as education, health and employment. Participants stressed that the improvement of the situation of young women and girls was critical to the achievement of the objectives contained in the Millennium Declaration, and in particular the Millennium Development Goals.

5. Participants noted the continued prevalence of discriminatory stereotypes and harmful cultural practices that had an adverse impact on young women and girls, such as forced and early marriages, female genital mutilation and preference of boys. The portrayal of young women in the media as sex objects and in stereotypical roles was a significant impediment to gender equality. Participants underscored the importance of combating cultural and religious stereotypes and practices that impede the advancement of women and the promotion of gender equality. Efforts were also needed to encourage the media to project an image of women as active participants in all spheres of life as role models for young women and girls. Such efforts should include awareness-raising and sensitization programmes.

6. The importance of education for young women and men, including non-formal education, was highlighted. Participants emphasized the benefits of non-discriminatory education for girls and boys and its contribution to ending stereotyped images, more equal relationships, mutual respect, the sharing of family responsibilities, the elimination of harmful traditional practices and change in culturally influenced constraints affecting young women and girls. The lack of access to quality education at different levels, that is primary, secondary and tertiary, and vocational training; sexual stereotyping and the lack of an enabling environment for girls' education were noted as major constraints to their empowerment. Participants also stressed the important link between education and employment and noted that even where women had higher levels of achievements in the field of education, men still generally earned higher incomes and were better represented in decision-making positions, a situation which was of great concern to the current generation of girls and young women.

7. Given their special vulnerabilities, participants noted the particular importance of health issues for young women and girls and the impact of the continued widespread lack of access to or availability of health services, including sexual and reproductive health services, and information, including sex education, family planning, contraceptives, safe and confidential services and treatment for young women and girls affected by HIV/AIDS. A particular concern was the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS on adolescent girls. Participants highlighted the links between health, HIV/AIDS and violence against young women and girls. In this regard, participants called for particular attention to the need for the legal and practical protection of young women and girls against all forms of violence, including domestic violence, trafficking and harmful practices such as female genital mutilation.

8. Participants discussed the importance of recognizing and responding to the diversity of young women's experiences. While many women in general experienced gender-based discrimination, specific groups of women and girls suffered from multiple and overlapping forms of discrimination on additional grounds such as disability, race, ethnic origin, caste and social status. It was noted that young women with disabilities suffered from particularly acute forms of discrimination. They lacked access to adequate health care and sex education, were at greater risk of poverty, had fewer opportunities to participate in economic and

social life and were more vulnerable to violence, including forced sterilizations. Participants stated that while it was important to integrate concerns about disabled women into all policies, programmes and legal initiatives, including the draft Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, the specific nature of discrimination against them also required targeted attention.

9. Discrimination against young indigenous women was highlighted. Extreme poverty, structural discrimination and the degradation of the environment and natural habitats exacerbated the disadvantaged position of indigenous women. Social progress of indigenous girls was affected by factors such as malnutrition, the breakdown of family structures owing to alcoholism and migration, high-drop out rates from schools and a greater share of domestic responsibilities. Participants called for the inclusion of the perspectives of young indigenous women in all policy and programme development at national and international levels.

10. Participants stressed the need for young men and boys to be actively involved in efforts to achieve gender equality and the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. Young men and boys should contribute to changing stereotypical attitudes, behaviours and gender roles and strengthen policies and action for gender equality. Participants noted that traditional male roles were unfair to women and potentially harmful to young women and girls and that they imposed constraints on men by perpetuating their stereotypical roles. Both young women and men had to play an important part in deconstructing traditional masculinities and shaping more gender-equal individual and societal expectations about the roles of men and women.

11. Participants noted the need for funding and technical support for youth work and for scaling up existing pilot projects. Additional resources were needed for programmes and projects in different fields, including education, health services and awareness-raising among girls and boys. Capacity-building, including the development of training programmes and effective tools and materials for the promotion of equality of young women and girls, was critical. The participation of women in public forums should be measured and used as a means for promoting participation of young women in public life.

12. Participants highlighted the need for youth-specific monitoring and implementation of national laws and international legal and policy instruments on gender equality, such as the Beijing Platform for Action, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Participants noted the importance of implementing Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security, particularly in the light of the devastating effect of conflict on young women and girls, and with a view to ensuring their full participation in rebuilding their societies after conflict.

13. Participants recommended that the perspectives of young women and men should be taken into account in the context of the reform of the United Nations. The Commission on the Status of Women should specifically encourage and support programmes aimed at achieving equality of young women and girls, including programmes aimed at working with young men and boys for gender equality. Young women and men should be regularly involved in the work of the Commission, and issues facing young women and girls should be addressed by the Commission on a regular basis.

Annex VII

Summary submitted by the moderator of the panel discussion on "Integration of gender perspectives in macroeconomics"

Summary submitted by the Moderator (Mr. Oscar de Rojas)

1. At its 17th meeting on 10 March 2005, the Commission on the Status of Women held a panel discussion followed by a dialogue on the "Integration of gender perspectives in macroeconomics". The panellists were: Nenadi E. Usman, Minister of State for Finance, Nigeria; Danny Leipziger, Vice President, and Head of the Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Network, World Bank; Marco Ferroni, Sustainable Development Department, Inter-American Development Bank; Yassine Fall, Senior Policy Adviser on Gender Equality, United Nations Millennium Project; and Jayati Ghosh, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India. An issues paper prepared by the Division for the Advancement of Women provided the framework for the discussion.

2. Participants recognized the adverse impact of women's inequality on economic growth, and pointed out ways in which the reduction in such inequalities would enhance economic growth. Participants discussed opportunities for identifying and integrating gender perspectives into macroeconomic policies and programmes and clarified the linkages between macroeconomic and social issues. Participants emphasized that in order to meet the objectives of the Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals, macroeconomic policies had to take account of gender dimensions.

3. Participants found that awareness of gender perspectives in macroeconomics was gradually emerging within Governments and international organizations. Although, traditionally, macroeconomics examined the behaviour and market interaction of economic agents, such as households, enterprises and the State, it was now increasingly recognized that macroeconomic analysis had to review separately the impact of macroeconomic policies on women and men within the household. During the past decade, economic thinking had evolved to favour pragmatic and flexible solutions. However, despite the increased awareness, gender perspectives had yet to be fully reflected in macroeconomics. Participants discussed the traditional model of economic growth, with gross domestic product (GDP) on the one side and consumption, government expenditure, private sector investment, import and export on the other. Within this framework, gender-based differences existed and had to be examined in access to factors of production, education and the labour market; as well as in the impact of fiscal and monetary policies, trade and foreign direct investment.

4. Participants highlighted the importance of women's access to factors of production, such as land and capital. Studies had indicated that if women farmers in Africa had equal access to agricultural inputs, outputs could increase up to 20 per cent. Similarly, meeting the transport needs of women could increase their productivity through their improved access to markets and trade fairs and reduce time spent in obtaining fuel supplies. While microcredit was a tool to enhance women's economic capacity, in particular of women entrepreneurs, it was not a

panacea for women's economic empowerment and such programmes could only be complementary to gender-sensitive economic policies in general.

5. Participants noted women's increased vulnerability to macroeconomic volatility and their differential impact on women and called for "pro-poor" growth policies to reduce such volatility and the vulnerability of countries to economic shocks. Experience, including from the East Asia financial crisis of the late 1990s, had shown that women were the first to become unemployed. Women in export-oriented employment had proven to be particularly vulnerable since foreign direct investment relocated to cheaper sites of production, thereby eliminating earlier growth in women's employment. Girls were the first to drop out of school in times of economic crises. At the same time, participants stressed education as a key to reducing women's vulnerability in the labour market. Monetary policies also impacted differently on women and men. For example, high and rising inflation placed a disproportionate tax burden on the poor, including low-paid wage earners and those with fixed incomes. Inflation, therefore, tended to hit women harder than men. Women's participation in decision-making was also seen as an important factor.

6. Participants noted that the majority of the poor were women and called for a poverty measurement that went beyond income and consumption to focus on human development, including access to rights and opportunities and to public services, such as education and health. Studies had shown the strong correlation between women's educational levels and their productivity and, consequently, increases in countries' economic performance. However, it was emphasized that focus on enrolment rates was not enough; quality of education was equally if not more important for ensuring women's participation in the labour market. World Bank studies had shown that if the gender gaps in education were reduced, countries in Africa and South Asia could expect an increase in the growth of GDP by 0.5 to 1 per cent. In the Middle East and North Africa, GDP growth could be 0.7 per cent higher and average household income 25 per cent higher if female labour force participation had increased with women's increased levels of education.

7. The adoption of gender-sensitive budgeting processes had allowed Governments to revisit public policies and redirect expenditures to sectors with highest social returns, which were most heavily used by women and children. Such processes were also important for managing the negative effects of globalization. Participants called for a review of public budgets from the expenditure as well as the revenue perspective, as fiscal policies such as direct taxation on cooking gas or transportation, user fees for water and cuts in rural subsidies had a disproportionately negative impact on women. The adverse impact on women of cuts in governmental expenditure in sectors such as health, education, childcare, nutrition, water supply, sanitation services, rural electrification and immunization had been shown. For example, lack of access to fresh water increased the amount of time women and girls spend on fetching water. Cuts in public expenditure also led to an increase in women's unpaid labour. Increased investments in public services could be achieved by redirecting resources and inputs from other sectors, as well as more efficient utilization of existing resources.

8. Participants called for a careful examination of the linkages between trade, debt and aid and their impact on women. National debt burdens, which often led to increased privatization, tended to reduce the ability of Governments to address

economic and social problems in society. The benefits and adverse impact of foreign direct investment and trade on the poor and their contribution to development, poverty reduction and gender equality required consideration. Trade liberalization, through removal of tariffs, tax breaks for foreign investors and privatization of utilities, had potentially negative impact on women. More open markets led to increases in domestic markets of imported goods, which competed with local products. As free trade policies tended to favour the strong, women's lack of or limited access to education, factors of production and information prevented them from competing on an equal basis with imported goods. Similarly, tax exemptions for foreign investors crowded out women producers from the local market. Efforts to ensure women's equal access to education and training, access to factors of production as well as information and to new technologies were called for to strengthen women's competitiveness.

9. Participants highlighted the "crisis in agriculture" in many developing countries, resulting from factors that included the effects of trade liberalization, reduced subsidies on inputs, the removal of State protection and the decline in institutional credit to agriculture, and noted its repercussions on women. This crisis in agriculture, as well as other economic shocks, contributed to increased female migration in pursuit of work. Women increasingly migrated alone, from rural to urban areas as well as from rural to other rural areas, as well as internationally. While migration expanded women's opportunities for productive work, it also carried significant risks in regard to the nature of work, work conditions and possibilities for abuse of migrant workers by employers and others. Women migrant workers employed in low paid sectors of the service industry rarely had access to education or other social services, and suffered from poor and inadequate housing and living conditions. Participants called for better protection of women migrant workers, including against the risk of becoming victims of trafficking.

10. Participants suggested three types of interventions, at national and international levels, for strengthening attention to gender dimensions at the macroeconomic level: (a) awareness-raising; (b) targeted interventions aimed at gender equality and the advancement of women; and (c) mainstreaming of gender perspectives into all sector areas. Although the knowledge base about the correlation between women's inequality and macroeconomic policies had significantly expanded and research and studies were available on many aspects, participants expressed concern that the lack of data disaggregated by sex, analytical tools and measures and political will continued to hamper more systematic analysis and action. Participants recommended the development of accountability systems for gender equality; the adoption of targeted interventions to correct existing gender inequalities; the systematic application of gender-sensitive budgeting processes in all countries; further development of analytical tools and measures to build an evidence base at the country level; and enhanced collection and analysis of data disaggregated by sex to inform macroeconomic policymaking, including by adapting the design of household surveys.

Annex VIII

Summary submitted by the moderator of the panel discussion on the role of regional and intergovernmental organizations in promoting gender equality

Summary submitted by the Moderator (Tebatso Future Baleseng)

1. At its 18th meeting, on 10 March 2005, the Commission on the Status of Women held a panel discussion on the role of regional and intergovernmental organizations in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women in the context of the implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. The panellists were: Winnie Byanyima, Director, Women, Gender and Development, African Union Commission; Rawwida Baksh, Head of the Gender Section, Commonwealth Secretariat; Luisella Pavan Woolfe, Director of International Affairs, Directorate General for Social Affairs and Equality, European Commission; Wadouda Badran, Director General of the Arab Women Organization, League of Arab States; Carmen Lomellin, Executive Secretary for the Inter-American Commission of Women, Organization of American States; Ms. Beatrix Attinger Colijn, Senior Adviser on Gender Issues, Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe. An issues paper prepared by the Division for the Advancement of Women provided the framework for the discussion.

2. Participants highlighted the important role of regional and intergovernmental organizations in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women within the context of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. Regional and intergovernmental organizations reinforced and often created synergy among participating States in promoting gender equality. They were instrumental in focusing attention on region-specific issues and raising their visibility at the global level. They also played a critical role in establishing common ground among their member States for gender equality policies and programmes and in introducing and monitoring common norms and standards in the area of gender equality and human rights of women. They worked in close coordination and collaboration with non-governmental organizations and other civil society representatives, including from trade unions and the private sector.

3. Regional and intergovernmental organizations worked in close collaboration with global international organizations, in particular the United Nations. The work on women and peace and security, for example, was further enhanced at regional level following adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

4. Regional and intergovernmental organizations facilitated and supported legislative review and amendment processes in their member States towards compliance with international and regional standards, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (the Convention of Belem do Para). For example, the Arab Women Organization of the League of Arab States had prepared guidelines for amending legislation to address discriminatory provisions and review existing laws. Regional and intergovernmental organizations also provided policy and financial support and

technical expertise for projects and programmes. For example, the European Social Fund financially supported the implementation of the European Employment Strategy and the social inclusion process. As part of their advocacy roles, organizations implemented awareness-raising campaigns and undertook capacity-building activities for government officials and women's groups on gender equality issues. They played a catalytic role in: broadening the use of the gender mainstreaming strategy, including promotion of gender-responsive budgeting processes; fostering integrated and multisectoral approaches to combating violence against women, trafficking in women and children and HIV/AIDS; poverty eradication and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Regional and intergovernmental organizations regularly implemented research programmes and surveys on the situation of women in their regions and were involved in the collection of data disaggregated by sex, including by maintaining databases on the situation of women in various areas. For example, member States of the European Union had adopted a set of indicators on domestic violence against women, based on the work of the European Commission. Organizations also played important roles in facilitating activities of national machineries for the advancement of women and the promotion of gender equality.

5. Participants noted the impact of the prevailing organizational culture, norms and practices within the organizations themselves for the success of their activities. Institutional and policy changes within the organizations had enhanced their capacities for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women among their member States. Mainstreaming of gender perspectives in policies, programmes and projects had been accelerated by expansion of mandates and the establishment of committees/commissions, gender focal points, adoption of action plans, increased resources, gender training of staff and the promotion of a gender-sensitive management culture and working environment. For example, the African Union Commission specifically stipulated that gender issues would be addressed in a cross-cutting manner in all the portfolios of the Commission. It had also adopted the principle of gender parity in decision-making positions. In the Commonwealth Secretariat, a Gender Steering Committee had been set up and two gender focal points had been appointed in each division to coordinate gender mainstreaming in all policies and programmes. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe had adopted a code of conduct for staff members on mission that covered the problem of trafficking.

6. Despite certain achievements, regional and intergovernmental organizations continued to face many challenges in the promotion of gender equality, both within the organizations themselves as well as in participating member States.

7. Participants emphasized that high visibility, including commitments at the highest political and leadership levels within the organizations and the participating member States, was crucial for effective implementation of mandates regarding gender equality. Concern was expressed that gender issues were often viewed as "soft issues" and given low priority. Lack of political and leadership support resulted in inadequate mandates, insufficient financial and human resources, unsustainable programme and project activities by national machineries and gender equality offices of regional and intergovernmental organizations. Participants expressed concern about the burden imposed on under-resourced national machineries by multiple reporting requirements of membership in several organizations at regional and global levels.

8. Participants agreed that in order to strengthen the work of regional and intergovernmental organizations in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, coordination and synergy among organizations themselves had to be enhanced. Reporting could be streamlined by making better use of, in particular, the reporting process under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and those related to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

9. Participants called for a stronger focus on their comparative advantages in promoting gender equality in different areas and for better coordination in providing technical expertise. Regional and intergovernmental organizations should support common gender equality strategies and monitor their implementation. Participants recommended that regional organizations should tackle region-specific problems that received insufficient attention at the global level. An example was the situation of particular groups of women who faced multiple forms of discrimination and exclusion on grounds such as race, ethnicity, age and class as well as sex. Collaboration with non-governmental organizations, private sector actors, academic institutions and the media should be expanded, and much greater use should be made of locally available expertise and knowledge, especially in programme and project implementation.

10. Participants also called for gender balance among staff and in appointments, especially in decision-making positions, and the enforcement of work/life policies for progress in promoting gender equality within the organizations themselves.

Annex IX

Statements made in explanation of position on the Declaration adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-ninth session

1. Statement of the representative of the Holy See

The Holy See has been following with great interest the 10-year commemoration of the Beijing Conference on Women. We are pleased with the progress made in particular areas and are happy to support the great advances achieved by women and for women since Beijing. At the same time, we recognize there is much to be done and many new challenges on the horizon to threaten that progress made in favour of women and girls.

The Holy See shares the concerns of other delegations about efforts to represent the outcome documents of the Beijing Conference and the five-year review of the Beijing Conference as creating new international rights. My delegation concurs that there was no intent on the part of States to create such rights. Moreover, any attempt to do so would go beyond the scope of the authority of this Commission.

With respect to the recently adopted declaration, the Holy See would have preferred a clearer statement emphasizing that the Beijing documents cannot be interpreted as creating new human rights, including a right to abortion. The Holy See also takes this opportunity to reiterate its position made at Beijing that is contained in the report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing, 4 to 15 September 1995.

My delegation sincerely believes that the momentum already gained in the authentic advancement of women must be preserved and fostered. As a matter of urgency, women's rights must continue to be a priority, and they should not be compromised by policies that do not treat women as persons with inherent human dignity and worth.

2. Statement of the representative of the United States of America

The United States is firmly committed to the empowerment of women and the promotion of women's fullest enjoyment of universal human rights and fundamental freedoms.

We have devoted substantial monetary and human resources towards programmes and activities to eliminate violence against women, including trafficking of women and children; increase access to health care, education, and economic opportunities; empower women in conflict situations; provide protection and assistance to refugee women and internally displaced persons; increase women's political participation; and ensure equality and non-discrimination under the law and in practice.

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action express important political goals that the United States endorses. We reaffirm the goals, objectives and commitments of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action based on several understandings. We understand these documents constitute an important policy framework that does not create international legal rights or legally binding obligations on States under international law.

Madam Chair, we have heard no delegation disagree with our interpretation. In addition, we appreciate your own assertion that the Beijing documents "should not be seen as creating any new human rights". This week we heard an international consensus on this point, which is useful to clarifying the intent and purpose of Beijing.

Based on consultations with States, we further understand that States do not understand the outcome documents of the Beijing Conference and the five-year review of the Beijing Conference to constitute support, endorsement or promotion of abortion. Our reaffirmation of the goals, objectives and commitments of these documents does not constitute a change in the position of the United States with respect to treaties we have not ratified.

The United States fully supports the principle of voluntary choice regarding maternal and child health and family planning. We have stated clearly and on many occasions, consistent with the International Conference on Population and Development, that we do not recognize abortion as a method of family planning, nor do we support abortion in our reproductive health assistance. The United States understands that there is international consensus that the terms "reproductive health services" and "reproductive rights" do not include abortion or constitute support, endorsement, or promotion of abortion or the use of abortifacients.

The United States supports the treatment of women who suffer injuries or illnesses caused by legal or illegal abortion, including for example post-abortion care, and does not place such treatment among abortion-related services.

We emphasize the value of the ABC (Abstinence, Be Faithful, and correct and consistent condom use where appropriate) approach in comprehensive strategies to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS and the promotion of abstinence as the healthiest and most responsible choice for adolescents.

It is essential to recognize the rights, duties, and responsibilities of parents and other persons legally responsible for adolescents to provide, in a manner consistent with the evolving capabilities of the adolescent, appropriate direction and guidance on sexual and reproductive matters, education, and other aspects of children's lives for which parents have the primary responsibility.

The United States does not favour quotas as routine for the advancement of women. The best way to guarantee women's involvement in the political process is through legal and policy reforms that end discrimination against women and promote equality of opportunity.

Our book and CD-ROM published this week, "Working for Women Worldwide", documents United States programmes domestically and internationally to promote women's empowerment.

We are glad to join the nations assembled here in committing ourselves to tangible efforts on the ground devoted to continually helping women enjoy better, more free lives throughout the world.

3. Statement of the representative of Iceland

The Icelandic delegation welcomes today's adoption of the declaration of the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

It has been my Government's opinion that the declaration should avoid detailed substantive matters and that its sole purpose should be to reaffirm the aims of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.

We appreciate the flexibility shown by the United States delegation in withdrawing their proposed amendment, thus allowing the Commission to adopt this declaration without including detailed substantive matters.

We would like to emphasize that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action are not legally binding, nor is the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. This is clear from the nature of the instruments and therefore unnecessary to state.

Our reaffirmation should be wholehearted, not grudging, so that we have a firm basis for continuing practical work aimed at improving the status and everyday living conditions of women.

4. Statement of the representative of the European Union

The European Union warmly welcomes this important declaration which fully reaffirms the commitments made 10 years ago in Beijing and five years ago at the twenty-third session of the General Assembly. The European Union welcomes, and is grateful for, the determination of member States to reaffirm in the strongest terms those commitments. We also welcome, and are grateful for, the flexibility shown by member States who, in the interests of consensus at this critical time, are supporting this declaration.

As European Union Ministers said in their declaration at Luxembourg and in the statement of the presidency of the European Union here on Tuesday, the European Union is strongly committed to the full and effective implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol, to the Cairo Programme of Action and the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action. This commitment informs policies at the European Union level, in member States and in our development policies and actions. And our strong endorsement of the declaration we are agreeing to today is also a result of our warm partnership with civil society across the European Union.

The European Union was encouraged by the statement made by the Secretary-General at the opening of this session of the Commission on the Status of Women. We strongly endorse the critical importance of gender equality to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The European Union invites the Secretary-General to make strong reference to this declaration we are agreeing to today, and to the need for all parties to make gender equality a priority, in his report due at the end of March and in the review of the Millennium Development Goals. The seven strategic priorities set out in the task force report on progress towards the Millennium Development Goals stress the importance for women of education, of sexual and reproductive health and rights, of economic advancement, of political participation and of putting an end to violence against girls and women. In this regard, we stress the need to ensure that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Cairo Programme of Action are fully integrated in the preparation for and the outcome of the September Summit. We further invite the President of the General Assembly to take this declaration fully into consideration in his leadership of the negotiations.

We can take some pride in women's progress that has been made over the past 10 years, by the international community, in advancing educational and economic opportunities, in greater access to health care, in protection from violence, in assistance to refugees, in protection in conflict situations and increasing political participation. There is a very great deal still to do, but by standing together, as we do in this declaration today, we will be stronger and more effective in working towards our agreed goals of gender equality and empowerment of women.

It remains, Madame Chair, to thank you and the Bureau for your endeavours both before this forty-ninth session and during it. Your careful preparation and skilful conduct of business has been vital in reaching agreement today. This is a historic moment for the world. Our shared agreement gives us reason to be optimistic about the future for women's rights, gender equality, development and peace in the twenty-first century.

5. Statement of the representative of Mexico

Mexico reaffirms its commitment with respect to the accession and implementation of the diverse international instruments ratified by our country, which we will continue to promote in accordance with the Constitution of the United States of Mexico and its secondary legislation.

6. Statement of the representative of Costa Rica

Costa Rica is fully committed to the advancement of women under conditions of equality and equity as an essential factor for achieving sustainable development, in accordance with its obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Costa Rica also believes that all its international commitments should be viewed within the framework of its human rights position and its stated belief in the primacy and inviolability of the right to life. We make this declaration within the framework of our domestic legal order.

Consequently, in accordance with the reservation submitted by Costa Rica to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, in 1995, we reaffirm that no reference to sexual or reproductive rights can be interpreted, under any circumstances whatsoever, as including the possibility of abortion.

Abortion is not a human right, as it is contrary to the principle of the inviolability of the right to life from the moment of conception. As our Constitutional Chamber has ruled, "the right to life is the essence of human rights, as without life there is no humanity".

Lastly, Costa Rica wishes to stress that, just as the right of adolescents to privacy in sexual health matters is recognized, the right of parents in this matter should also be recognized.

7. Statement of the representative of Malta

It is a great honour for me to take the floor at this forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which marks the tenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995. Luxembourg has already delivered a statement on behalf of the European Union. Malta reiterates its commitment to the promotion of gender equality, development and peace and the promotion and protection of women's human rights.

In joining the consensus on the declaration adopted in this forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the delegation of Malta would like to reaffirm its reservation made to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action on those sections of the document that directly or indirectly relate to induced abortion. The interpretation given by Malta is consistent with its national legislation, which considers the termination of pregnancy through induced abortion as illegal. The same reservation was made in the context of other conferences and meetings relating to this subject.

We wish to restate our position that any recommendation made relating to development assistance should in no way create an obligation on any party to consider abortion as a legitimate form of reproductive health or rights.

8. Statement of the representative of New Zealand on behalf of Australia, Canada and New Zealand

Equal rights for men and women are beyond dispute. The Charter of the United Nations itself calls for the full equality of men and women. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, with its explicit statement that women as well as men are born in equal dignity and rights, was the first step towards seeking that full equality. It also expressed our common understanding that the rights set out so clearly in the Declaration are universal and indivisible. Those rights were reinforced in the international bill of rights, and then further elaborated by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Those documents together contain a legally binding set of human rights of women.

Ten years ago we adopted the Beijing Platform for Action as the international community's policy framework to implement those rights. The Platform for Action was built on the consensus of all Member States. The foundations of that consensus were strong, and today's reaffirmation demonstrates that the Platform for Action has stood the test of time and continues to be the cornerstone of our policies to realize women's human rights.

We have spent too much time in recent years debating nuances and shades of meaning within the standards we have long agreed to as an international community. The text of Beijing is unequivocally clear, and we do not agree that certain words and phrases in it have hidden meanings. We should not spend hours splitting hairs over phrases that mean essentially the same thing, while women continue to suffer in poverty and hardship. Women the world over die in childbirth, are trapped in poverty and are victims of violence.

Clearly the commitments our Governments made at Beijing have not yet been achieved. We need to ensure that in the next 10 years our energy is put into learning from each other's success and mistakes to reach common understandings on the real challenges to the implementation of women's rights. At the United Nations, we need to stop going over the same old debates and to focus instead on how we can direct this Organization to improve its efforts to make real change on the ground.

Today's reaffirmation is an essential reminder to all Governments that the agenda set out in Beijing is more valid than ever, the realization of its vision is still a prerequisite for achieving international development, peace and security. We are, therefore, still committed to its full and effective implementation.

The reaffirmation is a signal that the international community is interested not in renegotiating or reinterpreting Beijing, but in moving forward in its implementation. The reaffirmation is a message that the international community supports women's human rights and gender equality. It is a reaffirmation that we are united in our support for women's full and equal participation in politics and decision-making. We are united in our conviction that violence against women is inexcusable and must be eliminated and in our support for women's right to control their own sexuality.

This year the Commission has celebrated and reaffirmed Beijing. Next year the Commission will negotiate its programme of work for the next few years. Let's ensure that our programme of work is forward-looking, practical, pragmatic and focused on achieving real change.

9. Statement of the representative of Nicaragua

The Government of Nicaragua:

- Ratifies the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action signed by the delegation of Nicaragua in Beijing in 1995, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the Declaration of the Rio Group, the Lima Consensus, the Santiago Consensus, the Mexico Consensus of 2004 and the agreements adopted at the meeting of the Council of Ministers of Women's Affairs of Central America and the Central American Initiative in Follow-up to Cairo and Beijing, maintaining the specific reservations expressed in those conferences.
- Accepts all the documents resulting from the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, while reiterating our reservations to any terms, concepts or references that are not consistent with the said reservations or the Political Constitution of the Republic.

(*Signed*) Ivania **Toruño Padilla**
Head of delegation
Government of the Republic of Nicaragua

Annex X

List of documents before the Commission at its forty-ninth session

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/CN.6/2005/1 and Corr.1 and 2	2	Annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work
E/CN.6/2005/2	3 (c) (i) and (ii)	Report of the Secretary-General on the review of methods of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"
E/CN.6/2005/3	3 (a)	Report of the Secretary-General on measures taken and progress achieved in the follow-up to and implementation of the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, with an assessment of progress made on mainstreaming a gender perspective within the United Nations system
E/CN.6/2005/4	3	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women
E/CN.6/2005/5	3	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan
E/CN.6/2005/6- E/CN.4/2005/69	3 (a)	Report of the Secretary-General on the joint work plan of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
E/CN.6/2005/7- E/CN.4/2005/70	3 (a)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the elimination of violence against women
E/CN.6/2005/8	5	Letter dated 16 December 2004 from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women
E/CN.6/2005/9	3	Letter dated 25 February 2005 from the Permanent Representatives of Canada, Jordan, Mexico, the Niger and Slovenia to the United Nations addressed to the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women
E/CN.6/2005/10	3	Letter dated 2 March 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General
E/CN.6/2005/L.1	3 (c)	Declaration issued by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-ninth session
E/CN.6/2005/L.2	3	Draft resolution entitled "Women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS"
E/CN.6/2005/L.2/Rev.1	3	Revised draft resolution entitled "Women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS"

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/CN.6/2005/L.3	3	Draft resolution entitled "Reducing demand for trafficked women and girls"
E/CN.6/2005/L.3/Rev.1	3 (a)	Revised draft resolution entitled "Reducing demand for trafficked women and girls"
E/CN.6/2005/L.4	3	Draft resolution entitled "Special rapporteur on laws that discriminate against women"
E/CN.6/2005/L.5	3	Draft resolution entitled "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into national policies and programmes"
E/CN.6/2005/L.5/Rev.1	3	Revised draft resolution entitled "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all national policies and programmes"
E/CN.6/2005/L.6	3	Draft resolution entitled "Integrating a gender perspective in post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation efforts, particularly in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster"
E/CN.6/2005/L.6/Rev.1	3	Draft resolution entitled "Integrating a gender perspective in post-disaster relief, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, particularly in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster"
E/CN.6/2005/L.7	3 (a)	Draft resolution entitled "Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women"
E/CN.6/2005/L.8	3 (a)	Draft resolution entitled "Strengthening of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women"
E/CN.6/2005/L.9	3	Draft resolution entitled "Economic advancement for women"
E/CN.6/2005/L.10	3	Draft resolution entitled "Indigenous women beyond the ten-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action"
E/CN.6/2005/L.11	3	Draft resolution entitled "Situation of women and girls in Afghanistan"
E/CN.6/2005/L.12	7	Draft report of the Commission on its forty-ninth session
E/CN.6/2005/L.13	7	Draft provisional agenda for the fiftieth session of the Commission
E/CN.6/2005/NGO/1-44	3, 3 (a), 3 (c), 3 (c) (i) and 3 (c) (ii)	Statements submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council